Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Further Reportage on Brazzaville 4-Way Talks

Delegation Heads in Luanda

FL2608180588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] The heads of the Cuban-Angolan delegation to the quadripartite talks on southwest Africa have traveled to Luanda for consultations. The Angolan-Cuban and South African missions and U.S. mediators are holding the fifth round of talks. The four previous rounds took place in London, Cairo, New York, and Geneva. The talks are aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the conflict in the region.

A joint military commission was created after the Geneva talks to guarantee the cease-fire agreed on at that time and prepare the implementation of UN Resolution No 435 on the independence of Namibia, territory occupied illegally by South Africa.

The Brazzaville round of talks, which began on Monday, was in a phase of bilateral contacts. It should end today. This meeting is considered decisive for the negotiating process initiated in London last May.

Talks Suspended Until 5 Sep

FL2708111988 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] The fifth round of quadripartite talks on southwestern Africa will continue on 5 September. The delegations of Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States decided they needed to consult their respective governments. An official communique termed the discussions as serious, detailed, and constructive.

During this round, the terms for a timetable, to be agreed upon by Cuba and Angola, for the gradual and total withdrawal of our country's troops from the African country were discussed.

Progress of Talks Noted

PA2808192788 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Commentary by Elena Nunez]

[Text] Greetings, comrades. In the continuing talks to find a solution to the conflict in southwestern Africa, the Cuban, Angolan, and South African delegations—under U.S. mediation—met in Brazzaville, the Congo's capital city. The fifth round of negotiations was described as serious, detailed, and constructive. Negotiations will resume during the week of 5 September, as participants decided to hold consultations with their respective governments.

After definite results were achieved during the fifth round of talks in Geneva, analysts feel that progress can be made in implementing UN Security Council Resolution 435 on the independence of Namibia. So far, a military commission has already been established, comprised of representatives from Angola, Cuba, and South Africa. This commission will supervise the cease-fire. Let us also bear in mind that during the meeting in Geneva, a joint statement was issued recommending to the UN secretary general that 1 September be the date when Resolution 435 would go into effect.

In addition, the parties agreed on a number of practical measures aimed at inspiring trust, reducing the risk of a military confrontation, and creating the necessary conditions in the region to end the negotiations [as heard]. All of this presupposes the establishment of a basis for a future agreement on the conflict in southwestern Africa, ensuring Namibia's independence and Angola's security. The talks, which will resume shortly, may provide a means to achieve these goals.

Castro Attends Ecuadoran Envoy's Reception

FL2708114688 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro attended a farewell reception given by the Ecuadoran ambassador to Cuba, Manuel Araujo Hidalgo, last night.

The diplomat leaves here in the (?wake) of affection and respect for the honesty with which he performed his job.

Youth Incorporation Into Work Force Regulated

FL2508160588 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] The State Committee for Labor and Social Security has enacted Resolution No 6,387, which will regulate the incorporation of 15- and 16-year-olds into the labor force. Its objective is to lessen or eliminate improper behavior in some young people. The following cases will be authorized: adolescents who are not in the national educational system because of poor academic performance, those who submit a medical certificate showing their inability to go to school, or a document from the Interior Ministry's guidance and diagnostic center recommending their incorporation into the work force. The application should be submitted by the youth's parents or guardians at the people's government's municipal labor directorate in their area of residence.

Haiti

Patron Saint's Day Festivities Held in Jeremie

Information Minister on Aid

FL2608204388 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Haiti needs aid but not at any price, said Information and Coordination Minister Colonel Acedius Saint-Louis during his tour of Jeremie on the occasion of patron saint's day festivities there.

We do not reject aid from foreign countries. We would be happier if we got it, but we refuse to walk on our knees. That is what the minister said during his tour.

We should follow the example of our ancestors, who won their independence without any help from abroad, the minister continued, explaining that solutions to Haitian problems must be found in Haiti. No solutions should come from abroad.

Those were excerpts from the minister's statement in Jeremie.

However, observers say this is just a political statement, particularly the part in which the minister said that they need aid and so much the better if they get it but that they will not walk on their knees to get it. Observers add that only future events will show where the truth lies.

Government Adviser Cited

FL2608211688 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Excerpts] In Jeremie, which is in the Grande Anse, the festival of St Louis was grandly celebrated this year. Our correspondent will have a report for you on this. Many observers in the Grande Anse say that former Duvalierist Deputy Luc Felix, who after being a deputy under the Manigat government is today the military government's development adviser, is very nostalgic for the darkest of the Duvalier years, the years during which he was a deputy. The big question people ask today is: Does Luc Felix really want to revive the past? In any case, his latest statements do not lead one to believe that he does not.

Last 17 August, Mr Luc Felix showed his colors when he attacked all those who do not think as he does or who refuse to applaud the military government. On that same occasion, he announced the creation of a certain Club Fraternite along the lines of the club of thugs in Freycinau. Yesterday, on the occasion of the festival of St Louis, Mr Felix went a bit overboard, saying that he was ready to go to war, despite the fact that people in Jeremie have already said they will not permit a repetition of August 1964. During this same political meeting, Mr Felix called St Louis, King of France, a criminal.

[Begin recording of correspondent Frankel Valentin] Today, 25 August, is the festival of St Louis, Jeremie's patron saint. The St Louis the people of Jeremie celebrate today is Louis IX, a French king. [passage omitted] Jeremie communal authorities took great pains to prepare the festival. [passage omitted] But we must also say that during the night and morning, there were many people going around posting up tracts at corners expressing support for the general. [passage omitted]

This morning there was a big mass at St Louis cathedral in Jeremie, concelebrated by approximately 30 priests who came from all over Haiti to salute St Louis parish, the parish of the cathedral of Jeremie. In his homily for this occasion, Father Dantes Daniel described St Louis as a leader with integrity who did not commit abuses or injustices such as murdering his brothers during the night with weapons, or accusing everyone else in order to show that only he was good or to defend himself. Father Dantes Daniel invited the current Haitian leaders to emulate this great man in all things. [passage omitted]

Then the city authorities went to city hall, where they were to receive a delegation from Port-au-Prince headed by Information Minister Colonel Acedius Saint-Louis, who was representing the president of the military government, General Henri Namphy.

Several people made speeches on the occasion, such as the town magistrate, the prefect, and Luc Felix, the development adviser.

For the magistrate, the festival of St Louis is a festival of reconciliation. He said that a group of irresponsible people had received Gen Namphy very badly when he came to Jeremie during the last few years. He asked the general to forget what they did to him when he went to Jeremie and to pay some attention to the town. [passage omitted]

Mr Felix declared that the Catholic Church was celebrating a European criminal—speaking of Louis IX—and that egotism and hypocrisy would not prevent the country from progressing. He said there were many young men advocating Marxism-Leninism in Jeremie, but that this would come to nought because, said Felix, they are prepared to go to war with a bunch of Catholic priests who are there to do a job that they are not even qualified to do.

This is Frankel Valentin, Radio Soleil, Jeremie. [end recording]

Peasants Decry Attempts To Destroy Organizations

FL2608220288 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] A note from the small peasants of the cooperative action group at the top of (Morne Karo) is denouncing the acts of intimidation being committed throughout Haiti to destroy all the popular organizations, especially the peasant organizations.

They say: We small peasants are the country's engine, but we obtain zero benefits from the country. We have been working hard for approximately 200 years, but it is always the bigshots here in Haiti and the bird-of-prey imperialists abroad who benefit from our labors. Now, the evil flunkies of the foreign bosses are out to destroy our last breath of life, our organizations, after stealing our creole pigs. However, we know that one of our basic rights, which no one has a right to take from us, is to live and to organize.

We wish to denounce the vile acts being committed against peasant movements, such as arrests. We ask that, despite all, peasants continue to assemble and to organize. We will either live or die trying.

Jamaica

Seaga, Manley Sign Political Code of Conduct

FL2608185788 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Prime Minister and JLP [Jamaica Labor Party] leader Edward Seaga and PNP [People's National Party] President Michael Manley a short while ago signed the long awaited code of political conduct at a ceremony at King's House. The signing of the code comes after 11 months of talks which were once suspended and following a public outcry for a peaceful election campaign. The signing was witnessed by officials from both parties.

Governor General Sir Florizel Glasspole described the signing as a historic moment and an unprecedented step. The historic signing ceremony is still going on with both Mr Manley and Mr Seaga making special statements.

Ombudsman To Monitor Compliance

FL2608212088 Bridgetown CANA in English 2106 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Aug 26, CANA—To a drumbeat of optimism tinged with caution, Edward Seaga and Michael Manley on Friday signed an accord which they hope will guide their parties through a peaceful election campaign.

At the ceremony, former Appeal Court Judge James Kerr was sworn in by Governor General Sir Florizel Glasspole as a special ombudsman to police the agreement between Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) and Manley's Peoples National Party (PNP). Under the accord the JLP and the PNP declare their opposition to political violence and pledge commitment to a code of conduct that would remove inflammatory rhetoric from the campaign, avoid confrontation among supporters, as well as to follow prescribed procedures to deal with breaches. The parties also agree not to run as candidates persons convicted for violent offences, or ruled by a judicial or quasi judicial body to have shown "conduct of moral terpitude."

"In case of a breach or suspected breach (of the code of political ethics), the two parties agree that each side will firstly consult with the other and if necessary invoke the intervention of the tribunal before recourse to any other forum," the document said.

Kerr's job, as an ombudsman with legal authority, will be to investigate reports of any breaches or outbreaks of political violence, pointing to political fault but without apportioning criminal blame.

The aim of the accord is to lessen tensions and prevent a divisive campaign that characterised the run-up to the 1980 elections when more than 500 persons died in political feuds.

Both Manley and Seaga pledged their parties full support for the agreement and promised to throw all their personal authority behind it.

"There are those abroad like vultures sitting on dry limbs waiting to pick on the carcass of Jamaica," Seaga warned.

"It behooves us to prove them wrong," he said.

Manley said that the parties had started a "great and vital task" and called on his supporters to honour both the spirit and letter of the agreement.

"My party...is sincerely committed to making it work," the PNP leader said.

But both men, who signed the agreement in the ballroom of the governor general's residence, King's House, underlined the importance of selling the accord at the grassroots level. Manley accepted that changing deep rooted habits that caused political violence could not happen overnight, that there could be problems.

"But we can quickly begin to translate the beginning to something real on the ground," he said.

Seaga warned against expecting a "cure-all".

"Signing of this agreement is not peace, the signing of this accord enhances the possibility of peace," he said.

Kerr, noting the unprecedented nature of accord, said that it was an example of an attempt to broaden democracy.. His wish was for the parties "to do their best to see that I have little work to do".

Kerr will not actually assume duties until October 1, Seaga announced, but in the meantime the government would be setting up his office, including consulting with the PNP on hiring investigative staff.

Seaga must call general elections here by next April.

PRI Proposes to Opposition 'National Agreement'
PA2908012988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0005 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Aug (EFE)—Today the ruling PRI proposed to the opposition the establishment of a "national agreement" to avoid the risk of having the differences between the political parties deteriorate into an "institutional crisis" and to permit the consolidation of democracy in Mexico.

In a document called a "political declaration," which was released today, the PRI urges the opposition to "engage in a dialogue to keep political divisions from deepening," because "at present, we cannot risk an institutional crisis or the paralysis of the state."

The PRI, which has been in power in Mexico since 1929, says: "(The political parties) must put aside all petty objectives...that seek to convert the normal procedures and schedules for complying with the Constitution into an occasion for attempting to force institutions to place themselves in positions that do not reflect the people's will."

The ruling party's declaration comes less that 48 hours before the expiration of the legal term of the new Mexican Congress, which is to be installed in office on Tuesday. So far, however, the 500 deputies and 64 senators who will make up the next legislature have not been confirmed in their posts.

The Electoral College, a multiparty organization responsible for confirmation of the results of the 6 July elections, has been the stage for harsh and acrid debates between the opposition and the PRI. This fact, in conjunction with constant interruptions of the sessions, have delayed the establishment of the Congress within the legal period.

The PRI's "political declaration" states that the main condition for the establishment of a dialogue among the political parties is "that there be agreement on the basic tenet of acting within the law and opening a path for democratic advancement."

In this regard, the PRI will propose to Congress that "we all assume responsibility for ensuring that on 1 September the basic principle of the republic—mutual respect among the branches of the state—will prevail to allow the president of the Chamber of Deputies to respond to chief of state Miguel de la Madrid's sixth state of the nation report."

The possibility that the Congress might not be established within the legal time frame, in time to respond to De la Madrid's final state of the nation address, has caused great controversy in this country, since juridical experts have stated that such a situation could result in a "constitutional crisis."

The PRI's six-point proposal for reaching a "national agreement" also states that dialogue among the political parties could be initiated with a commitment by the parties to maintain order and avoid provocations in any demonstrations or marches that they organize.

Similarly, the document states: "We want to see the results of the July elections fully clarified on the basis of the vote count records and in line with the procedures and with the proof that the law prescribes." PRI candidate Carlos Salinas de Gortari won the past elections.

In its proposal, the PRI warns the opposition that "it would reflect a lack of historical vision to attempt to bring about a political crisis as it apparently would like to do, but it would annul the progress made and risk a setback" in the country's democratic life.

For this reason, the document adds: "As President de la Madrid said, we will not allow the destruction of the Mexican revolutionary system."

Finally, the PRI demands that opposition parties of both the right and the left accept the Mexican people's mandate that "we consolidate a gradual and peaceful transition of institutional reform within a framework of democratic pluralism."

Chamber Electoral College Approves 10 Results
FL2608142288 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0513 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Up to now the Chamber of Deputies' Electoral College has approved the results of the federal elections in 124 districts in the country and victory is expected to be declared for candidates in 54 other districts during the course of the predawn hours.

The districts approved during the Electoral College's evening work were: Mexico State's 25th, Nuevo Leon's 2d, Durango's 4th, Queretaro's 3d, Sonora's 6th, and Zacateca's 3d. All of them favored the ruling PRI.

The electoral college also acknowledged the victory of PRI candidates in Zacatecas' 2d district, Mexico State's 26th district, Queretaro's 1st, and Veracruz' 19th.

The following certifications were submitted to the meeting during this session and are still pending: Federal District's 18th district, Durango's 3d, and Michoacan's 9th. Victory was granted to PRI candidates in the first two districts and to the National Democratic Front in the last one. They are expected to be approved during the course of the night.

On another matter, there was a 1 and ½ hour-recess after a long discussion by four political parties which were asking for the galleries to be reopened to the public. After the majority rejected the proposal there was another long debate of about 2 hours.

The opposition's proposal was rejected because it was submitted verbally and not in writing. This motivated a lot of discussion.

Proceedings Continue

FL2608180888 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1419 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Mexico, 26 August (NOTIMEX)—A new package containing 123 electoral districts was approved without objections in the Electoral College of the Chamber of Deputies. This increases the number of approved deputies to 138.

There are a total of 110 districts corresponding to the ruling PRI, 15 to the right opposition National Action Party, PAN, and 13 to the center-left National Democratic Front. It is also presumed that this morning 5 more districts will be approved which will increase the number of legislators to 143.

It is also believed that another package with over 40 electoral districts will be submitted, which will increase the number of legislators to almost 200.

Durango's 3d district and Queretaro's 3d district were not considered by the presumed deputies.

Those approved were: (southeast) Chiapa's 7th district, (north) Chihuahua's 10th district, (east) Veracruz' 13th district, (northeast) Tamaulipas' 4th district, (west) Jalisco's 12th district, Jalisco's 6th district, (south) Tabasco's 3d district, (west) Jalisco's 16th district, Chiapa's 8th district, (central) Guanajuato's 5th district, and (south) Oaxaca's 4th district, whose triumphs went to the PRI.

Also approved for the PAN were Mexico City's 25th district, and Michoacan's 3d district for the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution.

The reports presented for the consideration of the Electoral College which were also approved were Guanajuato's 6th district and Chiapa's 4th district. It is believed that Higdalgo's 4th district and Mexico's 17th and 7th districts will be approved for the PRI candidates.

34 More Results Approved

PA2608200988 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Report by Dalila Antuna]

[Text] With the presence of the opposition groups that had withdrawn from the plenary meeting at dawn yesterday, the Chamber of Deputies' Electoral College resumed its work shortly before 1400. The review and approval of cases transpired smoothly; so much so, that the Electoral College reviewed the largest number of deputy cases since it started working.

A total of 34 cases were approved between 1345 yesterday to 0430 today: 28 for PRI, 3 for the National Action Party, 2 for the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction Party [PFCRN], and 1 for the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution [PARM].

PRI won the following districts: 17th, 25th, and 26th of Mexico State; 5th and 6th of Guanajuato; 1st, 2d, and 4th of Hidalgo; 4th, 7th, and 8th of Chiapas; 6th, 12th, and 16th of Jalisco; 13th and 19th of Veracruz; 1st of Quintana Roo ; 2d of Tlaxcala; 2d of Queretaro; 2d of Nuevo Leon; 18th of the Federal District; 4th of Durango; 6th of Sonora; 3d of Zacatecas; 3d of Tabasco; 10th of Chihuahua; 4th of Oaxaca; and 4th of Tamaulipas.

PAN won the 3d and 15th districts of Jalisco and the 27th of the Federal District.

The PFCRN won the 12th district of Michoacan and the 16th of Mexico State.

PARM won the 3d district of Michoacan.

As of now, 151 deputies of the 300 that must be confirmed have been elected by relative majority. That is, one more than half of the total federal deputies have been elected by relative majority. Once the confirmation of these legislators-elect has concluded, 200 cases of deputies by proportional representation will be reviewed to total the 500 members of the Chamber of Deputies for the 54th legislature.

Senate Results in Four States Approved

FL2608135088 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0428 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Today the Senate's Electoral College ruling PRI majority urged members of the college to carry out the certification of the various files assigned to them and, at the same time, made a call for harmony and good judgment. Nicolas Reynes Berezaluce, senator-elect for Tabasco, made these remarks on behalf of the PRI majority represented in the Electoral College at the end of the session in which the elections in the states of Chiapas, Colima, Quintana Roo, and Guanajuato were declared legal.

Reynes Berezaluce said the Electoral College is treating the presumed members of the 54th legislature in a respectful and cordial manner. He added that the Electoral College should assess and certify in harmony and with good judgment all cases it is responsible for.

From the Senate's podium and before the plenum of the Electoral College, Reynes Berezaluce asserted that, in accordance with the legal resources in effect, the college can work with the PRI majority and, consequently, complete the work by 29 August.

He stressed that the composition of the Chamber of Deputies sums up and ratifies the popular will expressed through the votes cast by Mexicans on 6 July and has the serious responsibility of making our behavior fit the constitutional norms in response to the mandate the people have entrusted it.

The PRI legislator noted that, as Mexicans, we are certain that the presumed deputies will to put the higher interests of the nation before any other personal or party interest.

Likewise, he said all circumstances required by law to make possible the modifications required by law are present in line with the democratic opening which has taken place.

Special Session Set

FL2708010288 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2225 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Aug (NOTIMEX)—To consider the confirmation of presumed Senators Porfirio Munoz Ledo and Ifigenia Martinez Navarrete, the Permanent Commission of the Mexican Congress has called a special meeting for Sunday at 1100 (1700 GMT). The call was made by Permanent Commission President Nicolas Reynes Berezaluce.

The Permanent Commission is represented by deputies and senators from the PRI and minority parties of the 53d legislature.

The only topic on the agenda of the special meeting is the confirmation of senators elected in the 6 July elections in the Federal District.

Munoz Ledo and Martinez Navarrete were candidates backed by the coalition forming the National Democratic Front [FDN] with the exception of the Mexican Socialist Party.

3 State Results Approved

FL2708013888 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2253 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Today the Electoral College of the Mexican Senate declared legally valid the 6 July elections in the states of Mexico, Guerrero, and Campeche. A total of 29 reports accrediting 58 senators-elect have now been approved.

The Senate approved the reports on Leonardo Emilio Rodriguez Alcaine and Jesus Alcantara Miranda from Mexico, as well as those on Jorge Adolfo Vega Camacho and Francisco Jesus Solis Rodriguez from Campeche for 6 and 3 years, respectively.

In one of the longest debates at the Electoral College, the FDN contested the report on Mexico because of alleged irregularities. Rafael Padilla Samaniego, candidate of the Socialist Popular Party and the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction, defended his case and cited computer statistics as evidence.

Senators-Elect Enrique Burgos from Queretaro and Julio Patino from Veracruz spoke in favor of the report.

The report corresponding to Campeche on Vega Camacho and Solis Rodriguez was approved. However, it was contested by Michoacan Senator-Elect Roberto Robles Garnica.

The Campeche election was supported by Sinaloa Senator-Elect Mario Niebla Alvarez, who said that the best example of democracy in Mexico is the presence of the opposition in the Congress.

The two reports were approved with a majority vote.

On Monday, the Senate will verify the reports on the states of Tlaxcala and Southern Baja California.

Salinas Discusses Growth Recovery Programs

PA2908044388 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 24 Aug 88 pp 1, 8

[Article by Ubaldo Diaz]

[Excerpts] In swearing in the members of the Basic Infrastructure Development Commission [Comision de Infraestructura Basica para el Desarollo], Carlos Salinas de Gortari said that he will wage war on poverty and implement priority employment programs, but he will also draft and carry out a number of small infrastructure projects to meet the need for services and employment of the more densely populated urban and rural areas.

Salinas de Gortari added that the growth rate must be accelerated. To this end, he proposed four main areas of economic action: financing for development, deeper structural changes, priority expansion of the infrastructure, and modernization of the productive sectors.

He said that along with the physical infrastructure, which stands out as the factor that determines the rate of modernization, public investment will be channeled strategically for the conservation and expansion of that infrastructure, and it will also be necessary to permit an increased participation by the private sector.

Salinas de Gortari also said that without efficient transportation and communications, it would not be possible to seriously plan for the efficient functioning of our productive and distributive apparatus or plan a true decentralization.

As for water, he said that this is a vital resource that should not be wasted and must be administered with both personal comfort and productive needs in mind. [passage omitted]

Salinas de Gortari also spoke of consolidating the modernization of railroads as the backbone of the transportation system. He said that to achieve this, the active participation of the employees is indispensable and the productivity, maintenance, and speed of the operation must be improved.

"The great modernization that the road network requires," Salinas de Gortari said, "will be given priority in the public and private investment programs. This, in addition to increasing the efficiency of transportation, will increase the number of jobs. In addition, private transportation will also have to be modernized through a dialogue between the authorities, those providing the services, and the users."

Electoral College on FDN Remarks on Murders

FL2508223988 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2037 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Mexico City, 25 August (NOTIMEX)—Today the Electoral College of the Mexican Senate strongly condemned the recent homicide of four students. They added that the center-leftists have irresponsibly and deceitfully tried to attribute a political motive to this crime.

The Electoral College called on the opposition party, the National Democratic Front (FDN), to reconsider their rash accusations against the Mexican Government in regard to that painful event. Accusations such as these are only an attempt to confuse public opinion, said the Electoral College.

At today's session analyzing the results of the 6 July elections, the electoral college declared valid the election results in 4 of Mexico's 31 states.

During the meeting, Sonora Senator-Elect Manlio Fabio Beltrones called for an investigation into the 21 August homicides. Beltrones said it is regretable that these contemptible crimes create false accusations, promote political maneuvering, and create confusion among the public. He said that Mexico is undeniably living under a climate of liberty different from that of other countries on the American Continent.

I want to make a respectful but strong call to the comrades of the FDN, especially to their leader Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano, to carefully examine and seriously reconsider their rash accusations and irrational attitudes.

The legislator said the nation is going through a historic time in the progress of democracy and he warned that the attitude of Cardenas (presidential candidate in the last elections) and his group is clearly an act of provocation which will only benefit those who want to weaken Mexico.

He said that the most evident responsibility is to be firm and to cooperate to attain justice so that the crimes can be solved and the guilty punished. It is also our responsibility as politicians to prevent the confusion from intimidating youths and to insist on their participation in developing a climate of peace and pluralism, as well as promoting the civilized coexistance which we now enjoy, he stressed.

Beltrones stressed that the assassination of the youths has shaken the nation. In view of this, he called on the senators of the PRI government who have been approved to strongly condemn these crimes and the irresponsible and deceitful political use of their deaths. He called for solving these crimes and for the punishment of those responsible. He recommended that the most heartfelt condolences be sent to the parents, families, comrades, and friends of the murdered youths.

FDN members Cristobal Arias Solis and Roberto Robles Garnica of Michoacan also spoke at today's session to demand that authorities solve the crimes.

The session later proceeded with the approval of the elections in the state of Chiapas. The electoral college declared the 6 July elections in Chiapas legal and valid. The Chapias senators-elect are Jorge Antonio Melgar Aranda and Blanca Ruth Esponsa, elected to 6- and 3-year terms, respectively.

No 'Political Connection' in Deaths

PA2808043688 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television 1955 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Today in a news conference Federal District Attorney General Renato Sales Gasque reiterated that last Sunday's murder of four students did not have any political connection. He based his statement on conversations with the students' relatives, who stated that neither they nor the victims had any political affiliation. Sales Gasque added that investigations will continue to apprehend and to punish those responsible.

Finance Secretariat on Foreign Debt, Economy

PA2808225388 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 25 Aug 88 p 6-A

[Editorial: "Partial Debt Reduction"]

[Text] The Finance Secretariat reported that the public sector's foreign debt was reduced by $1.7499 billion dollars during the last 3 months of the year. Unfortunately, the recovery achieved during that period was lost in the last few weeks due to the combined effects of rising interest rates and declining oil prices. This means that it will be necessary to work harder in the future to reduce

the debt through negotiations with the banks or by resorting to exchanging old debts for long-term bonds.

A small debt reduction has partially served to overcome the adversities encountered in the international market. This allows some breathing space for the remainder of 1988. The Finance Secretariat plans to improve public finances by increasing non-oil revenues, applying strict discipline in public spending, and continuing the program of selling off nonpriority and nonstrategic enterprises.

Mexico's economy is heading in the right direction, though with obvious difficulties. Agriculture-livestock and manufacturing exports remain steady, the commercial balance continues to be favorable, and prices are under control. In addition, the recession, although it has deepened, has not yet reached crisis proportions. Under these conditions, perhaps by early next year the economy may strengthen, especially if an agreement is reached with international bankers.

Briefs

GNP Growth Statistics

The Planning and Budget Secretariat reported on 23 August that the Gross National Product increased by 2 percent during the first 6 months of 1988 compared to the same period in 1987. The officials added the the lowest figures were in the agricultural sector, which reflected a marginal increase of 0.2 percent, while the generation of electricity, gas, and water increased by 5.8 percent. [Summary] [*PA2908032888 Mexico City UNO-MASUNO in Spanish 24 Aug 88 p 13*]

El Salvador

Death Squads Blamed for Attack on Majano Vehicle

PA2708201788 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Report by Ernesto Rivas]

[Excerpts] Two policemen who were assigned to guard Colonel Arnoldo Majano were shot to death this morning near the Metrocentro. The incident took place at approximately 1100 on Juan Pablo II Avenue and (Los Ceros) Boulevard. The dead detectives, Transito Alfaro Lara and Miguel Angel Mejia Quezada, were both members of the Police Investigations Department. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Col Majano, a former member of the Government Junta, confirmed this afternoon to the "Today" newscast that the dead policemen were part of his security personnel and that the Nissan Sunny vehicle, with private license plate No 101187, belonged to him.

[Begin recording] [Majano] First of all, I want to condemn the attack on me that was staged this morning. It was my vehicle, and the two policemen usually accompanied me as my bodyguards.

[Reporter] Since when?

[Majano] Since April. Except for very brief intervals, they were my bodyguards.

[Reporter] In condemning this incident, Colonel, do you believe or are you asserting that the attack was directed against you?

[Majano] Yes, of course. It was an attack on me. There is no doubt about that, and it seems to me that there is every indication that it was committed by death squads. That is one of my first conclusions. This attack flies in the face of the democratization or the peace process upon which we all wish to embark.

[Reporter] Colonel, what do you think was the motive?

[Majano] Well, my political actions, my political activities. You know that I am involved in politics. That is why I have come here. I want to make a contribution. I was making an effort to inform the people. I have wished to contribute my experience and my knowledge, but, above all, I wished at this time to guide the people, explaining certain things and outlining opinions and concepts. This has led me to make contact with certain political and labor organizations. [end recording] [passage omitted]

FMLN Blames PDC, U.S.

PA2808202088 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Station commentary: "The Assassin Returns to the Scene of the Crime"]

[Text] As happens in detective stories, in the case of the attack on the life of Colonel Majano, the assassin has returned to the scene of the crime. In a matter of hours, all the criminals have publicly acknowledged their responsibility, and, what is more, they have gone further, revealing the arguments which, they say, justify the crime.

The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and the Yankee embassy, through Justice Minister Julio Alfredo Samayoa, maintain that the attack is a clear message for Col Majano. They add that they know seven people involved in the action. In other words, they know the motives and the perpetrators.

[Defense Minister General Carlos] Vides Casanova took it personally when he heard the charge that the attack had been carried out by the death squads. He very angrily demanded irrefutable proof of the charge. In other words, the assassin gets annoyed when he finds out that his crime was not perfect, that it was a vulgar death squad attack.

With this revealed, the people do not need more investigations or leads. The assassins have come before the public to boast of their crime and to try to justify it. They have come to teach a lesson about their death squad-style of democracy. The green [PDC color], ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], and military death squads have spontaneously and desperately joined together to defend the only thing left of their failed regime: a weak Armed Forces with fissures that threaten its collapse.

Col Majano's big crime has been to promote a debate, a discussion of the war and the national situation, inside the Armed Forces. Such a discussion would immediately bring up many harsh questions about the Yankee strategy and the high command's leadership in the war. The Armed Forces are not [General Adolfo] Blandon, Vides Casanova, or the high-ranking military officers who profit from the Yankee dollars. The Armed Forces are the officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers who suffer and bear the brunt of the war. They are the ones who are killed, wounded, or disabled. They are the ones who pay the costs of a failed strategy in a war that is unjust and runs counter to national interests.

Col Majano's political activity is dangerous for the Yankees, the PDC, and ARENA. Thursday's attack in San Salvador was just a warning from the high command, the PDC, the Yankee embassy, and the ARENA oligarchs. This time the assassins returned to the scene of the crime to judge the victim, make known their law, and issue their next ruling.

Military To Protect Majano

PA2808222088 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Report by Magdalena Jimenez]

[Excerpt] After meeting with Colonel Adolfo Majano at a capital city hotel, Defense Minister General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova has said that the Armed Forces will protect Col Majano in the wake of yesterday's attack.

A new Armed Forces commitment to ensure respect for civilian rights and a fair administration of justice was the result of a meeting between Gen Vides and Col Majano. Col Majano requested the meeting to make two requests of the military institution: first, protection for himself; and second, an investigation into the murder of his two bodyguards, who were gunned down near the commercial center.

[Begin Vides recording] We will continue to stress to the Armed Forces the need to combat terrorism, regardless of who the terrorists are. We must act forcefully. If we need to fight against the Armed Forces, the right, or left, we will. In a country suffering from social disobedience and a nearly generalized violence, we need ways of finding out who exactly (?is responsible).

I have already issued orders to the national police director because members of our institution were killed. We will do everything possible to find the culprits. [end recording] [passage omitted]

CDHES Blames Army, Death Squads for Violence

PA2808195488 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 28 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Today the non-governmental Human Rights Commission of El Salvador (CDHES) asserted that political violence, which it attributes to death squads and to the Army, has resulted in 15 dead and 1 wounded during the past 6 days.

CDHES spokesman Miguel Montenegro told ACAN-EFE that the increase in repression is aimed at "sowing psychological terror among the people, who are increasingly demanding the fulfillment of their basic needs." The CDHES spokesman added that political violence has increased in recent weeks "as a result of the failure of the counterinsurgency plan being carried out by the Salvadoran Government and Army."

Referring to the victims of political violence during August, Montenegro said that 7-15 people come forward every day to report the disappearance of their relatives.

Montenegro explained that the people report how their missing relatives are taken away "by heavily armed civilians." [passage omitted]

FMLN General Command on Church Proposal

PA2808052488 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0020 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Communique issued by the FMLN General Command in El Salvador on 26 August]

[Text] FMLN position on the forum promoted by the church:

First: This is a decisive moment in which El Salvador has a opportunity to achieve peace with justice, freedom, independence, and self-determination. The attainment of this freedom depends completely on the people's support. It depends on the support of a large majority from the various sectors for a decisive struggle against the forces that are still promoting the foolish hope of an FMLN defeat in order to crush the desire for liberation for which the working people have been struggling.

Within the context of rising conflict and hopes, the Catholic Church's initiative for a national dialogue to achieve peace in El Salvador is an important effort to move the national and popular sectors to seek, in a constructive manner, the points of agreement that make possible a politically negotiated solution to the conflict.

Although we believe that in the organization of the debate higher priority was given to formal aspects of the debate at the expense of a thorough discussion of the issues, the promotion of a dialogue of this nature is a step toward peace.

Second: Aside from the specific objectives the debate will achieve, the FMLN General Command stresses the following aspects to the Salvadoran people and the international public:

1. The various attitudes regarding the debate has unequivocally demonstrated the true position of certain business and political sectors. ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] showed its true colors when it rejected the church initiative following an electoral campaign hidden behind the rhetorical speeches that feigned approval of the need for a dialogue and a politically negotiated solution.

ARENA supporters later demonstrated at the Legislative Assembly their support for measures needed to soothe the anguish of the various popular sectors that go to that branch of government in search of justice. This was done to build a new party image of moderation and sensitivity to hide the party's role as a tool of the oligarchy, which is to blame for the people's hunger and misery, more than 75 years of despotism, and the successive military governments up to December 1980. These military dictatorships marked the beginning of the current military dictatorship, which hides behind a useless and corrupt veneer: the Christian Democratic government.

ARENA argued that the Legislative Assembly was the ideal place to hold a dialogue, failing to mention that most ARENA party members at the Assembly did not respond to the proposal that the FMLN-FDR made in May 1987 to begin a dialogue and a negotiation with the Assembly, the executive branch, and the top command, including the participation of the popular and business sectors.

It is thus clear that, for ARENA, the dialogue is merely a demagogic resource to try to win next year's presidential elections.

2. Like ARENA, several business organizations rejected the debate suggested by the church and, in fact, are advocating the continuation and intensification of the counterinsurgency war.

The murder of Salvadorans continues. More than 50,000 victims have resulted from the Christian Democracy's effort to impose the party's victory by means of a bloodbath. This bloodbath is part of a military strategy they refer to as total war, which will severely hamper efforts to reactivate the economy, which will hurt the businessmen themselves. This total war will make it easier to attain an overwhelming revolutionary victory.

3. The Duarte administration, the Christian Democratic Party, and the Armed Forces' top command, together with a small group of right-wing parties, were bent on a sterile effort to draw up an alleged peace plan that ended up being merely general statements and a repetition of a proposal that places the Constitution at odds with a negotiated solution to the conflict. This is a stand that is, in essence, a subterfuge to continue the escalation of the war in accordance with the will of the reagan Administration, which is footing the bill for this kind of war.

4. The debate suggested by the church has become, in practice, an accurate indicator of which sectors and forces favor negotiation and peace and which sectors and forces seek a prolongation and intensification of the counterinsurgency war.

5. The FMLN General Command feels that the church's contribution is valuable in the broad promotion of the debate on a problem the people are very worried about: finding a just and dignified solution to the Salvadoran conflict.

As far as we are concerned, we are interested in the church's proposal and are open to discussing the resolutions reached and to support any conclusions that lead us to a solution with justice, dignity, and freedom.

We are aware that the people's victory cannot be stopped. This is why we want to lessen the cost that the oligarchy, the Reagan administration, and the Christian Democracy want to impose on our people in their zeal to delay our victory.

We also feel that it is important that all participants in the debate analyze this delicate problem realistically and objectively. All participants must keep in mind the large poor sectors and the the various interests that are working toward the recovery of our sovereignty, hoping for the strengthening of democracy, and seeking an economic order with social justice.

It is important to analyze carefully those proposals that want to leave the FDR-FMLN out of this effort. These are proposals that hide behind the theory of an an apparent political solution through the creation of a political front that alienates the FMLN from the people and supports, in vain, a military victory.

This proposal is unrealistic, nonobjective, and whimsical, because after 8 years of trying to defeat the FMLN militarily, the Armed Forces have failed. We are currently not only stronger militarily but closer to the people. We live in our people's hearts. We are part of them, and there can be no solution to the conflict without taking this into consideration.

The people, now more than ever before, are the creators of their own destiny. Similarly, a cease-fire as an initial phase to a process for reaching a politically negotiated solution is not feasible, because this would imply the disarming of the FMLN.

We must be clear that the disarming of the FMLN would be a return to the past. The people have gained, with a display of humanity and sacrifice, their legitimate rights of organization and political expression, and they cannot retreat from this.

The expression that the church uses to promote ways to seek a consensus and a political solution [words indistinct] based on the efforts of the popular majority.

A cease-fire is possible as part of an overall negotiation in which the causes that generated the conflict are solved. This means that [words indistinct] the positions that reject a politically negotiated solution. This point, although a political problem, also depends on the correlation of forces in all areas.

Regarding the correlation of forces, the military aspect plays a very important role. The resolutions must be based on a thorough analysis of our situation, an effort to find solutions to the problems that require a large portion of our population to bear arms—a people who have a territory, social base, and international recognition. [Words indistinct] resolutions strictly by the Constitution would make formulary solutions difficult because the Constitution was written to give the counterinsurgency a political and legal basis.

We reaffirm our willingness to continue helping in the search to find a solution. We still feel that our 6- and 18-point proposals are a basis upon which to build a solution, because we are willing to add new proposals.

For this reason, we urge all forces that will sign the resolutions that are issued by the debate to approve mechanisms and courses of action to guarantee their implementation.

Revolution or death, we will win!

[Signed] FMLN General Command
Commanders Shafick Jorge Handal, Leonel Gonzalez, Joaquin Villalobos, Roberto Roca, Ferman Cienfuegos

El Salvador, Central America, 26 August 1988

Cristiani on Democratic Merger Ties With FMLN

PA2708195088 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Today Alfredo Cristiani, president of ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], said that the Democratic Merger's [CD] decision to participate in the elections next year contributes very little to the democratic process, since some of that group's leaders are still allied with the FMLN.

Cristiani, ARENA's presidential candidate, criticized the CD for its ambiguous position on the electoral process. According to the ARENA leader, it is impossible to participate in the general elections next year and, at the same time, remain strategically linked to the FMLN.

[Begin Cristiani recording] One would guess that the CD's strategy is to use political means not to seek power but to subvert the democratic process from within, because the ally [the FMLN] wants to achieve power by violent means. This is the strategy. We have all seen the document confiscated from the guerrillas which says that they use several methods to subvert the process and to achieve their objectives.

We therefore believe that it would be a token of sincerity if the CD dissociated itself from groups that clearly disavow democracy and that try to achieve power through violent means by destroying property and killing people. It is necessary for them to dissociate themselves from that organization and not give it a semblance of legitimacy. [end recording]

Cristiani remarked, however, that in all other aspects besides that of the aforementioned alliance, the CD's decision is a positive sign of an expansion of the Salvadoran (?political base), which helps to give the electoral process more credibility.

On another subject, the ARENA leader said that this week he went to Guatemala to talk with Guatemalan Vice President Carpio Nicolle about the possible ratification of the Central American parliament charter by the Salvadoran congress. ARENA deputies advocate secondary elections to choose delegates to that regional forum. They feel that direct elections would be too much for the Salvadoran electorate to handle with next year's presidential elections taking place so soon.

Accident Involving Golcher, U.S. Attache Viewed

PA2808022688 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Aminta Platero was killed when her car was hit by another car driven by former Deputy Public Security Minister Rinaldo Golcher. At the time of the accident, Golcher was accompanied by U.S. Military Attache Angel Menendez. The incident occurred at 0100 on 26 August at the intersection of West 1st Street and North 51st Avenue. Col Golcher was supposedly in Israel where he was sent as the Salvadoran Government's military attache; however, the well-known leader of the death squads was seen at 0100 in downtown San Salvador accompanied by none other than the U.S. military representative in our country. This happened only hours after Colonel [Adolfo Arnoldo] Majano's bodyguards were murdered.

The circumstances surrounding this incident raise several questions. What were these two soldiers doing at 0100? Where were Golcher's bodyguards? Where were his companion's bodyguards? The two men were probably returning from a corruption center, a night club—one of those exclusive clubs where the U.S. advisers and other U.S. and Salvadoran Government officials spend the dollars they steal from the funds allotted to El Salvador and where they plan crimes against the people.

Much more could be said; however, the truth is that the incident was no mere accident. Mrs Platero is another victim of the madness affecting an army directed by U.S. advisers. There is not much difference between this incident and the hurling of a grenade by a soldier driven crazy by the psychological terrorism practiced by the Army advisers and chiefs. There is no doubt in our minds that Golcher will not be tried for this new crime, just as he has not been tried for the many crimes he has been responsible for as chief of the repressive corps and death squads.

Venceremos Participates in University Forum

PA2608184588 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Our station has participated in a forum on social communications in San Salvador organized by the National University of El Salvador with a report on the role of revolutionary radio stations in our unjust society.

This event involves the participation of national information media, including the press, radio, and television; the National University's School of Journalism; foreign correspondents; and FMLN radio stations.

Radio Venceremos' report focuses on issues pertaining to the Salvadoran people's struggle to secure the right to information and freedom of speech. It touches on various moments in history when the dictatorship tried to silence the voice of the working majority, and alternate communications emerged as a result.

Our report includes the experiences of Radio Venceremos over the past 8 years in its role to inform, guide, and link the vanguard with its people. It has become an strategic instrument of the emerging power of the people.

We call on all our people to look for coming Radio Venceremos broadcasts, because we will be reading from this report presented at the National University, which is part of the efforts of this academic center to define scientifically the role of the media in Salvadoran society.

FMLN Warns National Guardsmen To Quit

PA2808201288 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Warning from FMLN fighters in Cabanas to the Tejutepque National Guardsmen: We have listened to accusations by the people of Tejutepeque on repressive actions taken against them by National Guardsmen. We know that death squads are being established among National Guardsmen to cover up the most heinous murders of defenseless civilians. The FMLN has often called on you to quit the National Guard and return to your families to work for the good of the people.

You yourselves maintain that you are alive because the FMLN is giving you the opportunity to mend your ways. We know not all National Guardsmen agree with the war against the people. A clear example of this is the case of the three officers who deserted not too long ago. We call on you again and we warn you: Ask to be discharged. As for those who continue in the National Guard: In a few days we will not be handing out flyers to you; instead we will show you the full force of our weapons.

Army Seizes Underground FMLN Storage Bunker

PA2508214388 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 24 Aug 88 p 2

[Text] Special 3d Brigade forces seized an underground storage bunker at the Bellamira farm near San Miguel in which the FMLN stored war materiel.

In providing a detailed report of the incident, Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chief of the "Lieutenant Colonel Domingo Monterrosa" 3d Infantry Brigade, described the seizure as one of the Army's most important finds in recent times because it it creates a dilemma for the terrorist movement in the area.

This storage bunker, Col Ponce said, was part of a camp the communist FMLN-FDR groups maintained on the farm, from which they carried out all sorts of atrocities against the civilian population and sabotaged power and telecommunications facilities.

Col Ponce explained that once the communist groups realized they had been discovered by the 3d Brigade, they decided to flee, leaving behind their war materiel and the equipment they used to manufacture explosives.

Upon carefully searching the hidden bunker, Ponce added, the Army found equipment usually used by the FMLN-FDR at their assault positions and at the lodgings they occasionally provide for terrorist leaders.

The soldiers found 96 yards of coaxial cable for VHF radio antennas, large quantities of food, and bomb-manufacturing equipment.

Ponce added that while patrolling the La Puerta region within the jurisdiction of San Miguel, the "Cuscatlan" Infantry Battalion located a camp the terrorists had abandoned when the soldiers arrived. Here, he said, the soldiers seized 6 tents, 10 hand grenades, a can of gasoline, and 30 M-16 rifle cartridges.

The Marine Infantry Battalion, Ponce said, dismantled a terrorist camp in the vicinity of Jiquilisco, Usulutan Department. At the camp they encountered approximately 25 rebels, one of whom was killed while defending the camp. The rest fled when they sensed defeat.

After the shootout, Ponce announced, the Marines seized 1 AR-15 rifle, 2 M-16 cartridge clips, 1 rifle sling, 1 cartridge clip carrier, 4 civilian knapsacks, 4 explosive devices, and 15 black portfolios.

Army, FMLN Sustain Casualties in Clashes

PA2808013788 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] A corporal and a guerrilla have been killed in the most recent clashes between the Army and the FMLN. According to military reports, Corporal Alexander Molina Granados was killed as he was trying to defuse a mine placed by the insurgents on La Noria Bridge, in San Marcos Lempa. According to military authorities, a lieutenant and five civilians who were passing through the area at the time were injured by the explosion.

Meanwhile, troops of the (Civiplan) Battalion killed an FMLN guerrilla in a skirmish on the slopes of La Cruz Hill in Chalatenango Department.

Residents of Quetzaltepeque reported that the rebels downed an electric tower last night on the outskirts of the town.

Guatemala

Labor Group Rejects Cerezo's Offer for Talks

PA2808172488 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1630 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 28 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Today the Labor and Popular Action Union (UASP), comprised of labor organizations, peasant groups, and student associations, turned down Guatemalan President Cerezo's dialogue proposal to end the public sector's strike. [passage omitted]

Today the UASP, which has more than 1 million members, said that it will not participate in a dialogue with President Cerezo until the government has met its demands.

Guatemala's largest labor union demands that the government respect human rights and the freedom of assembly. It also demands the formation of a commission to investigate the whereabouts of the people reported missing by the Mutual Support Group (GAM).

Official government spokesperson Claudia Arenas said that if the workers supporting the UASP do not change their minds about going on strike, the government might begin a massive dismissal of workers.

The official noted that specific measures were implemented a few days ago but could not say what these measures were, how many of the measures were implemented, or what institutions implemented them. [passage omitted]

Government Urges URNG To Reconsider Position

PA2708141388 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1307 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] The Guatemalan Government hopes that the URNG will reconsider the inflexible position it expressed in Costa Rica at the meeting with the National Reconciliation Commission. This meeting was held in accordance with the Esquipulas II agreements. The government said that the rebels must understand that too many lives have been lost in the past 30 years and that a change in their position would prevent further bloodshed and open the way for the much-desired social peace.

Government officials said that according to Msgr Rodolfo Quesada Toruno's statement, the URNG has its own interpretation of how best to join the democratic process. Therefore, the government feels that it would be impossible to find an immediate solution to the problem. According to Esquipulas II, if the guerrillas wish to participate in the national dialogue, they must either accept the amnesty offered or lay down their weapons.

Foreign Minister Criticizes Nicaragua

PA2708152288 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1400 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—It was announced today that Guatemalan Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera has said that the Sandinist government is "closing off political opportunities" and "blocking the democratizing process in Nicaragua."

Cabrera said that Nicaragua has to call a meeting of the area's foreign ministers to "reactivate" the Esquipulas II Executive Commission. The Guatemalan minister expressed his "concern" over the lack of "democratization" in Nicaragua, adding that the Nicaraguan Government has not complied with the peace treaties it signed on 7 August 1987 in Guatemala City.

The foreign minister said that in view of the urgent need to make the Esquipulas II peace plan "viable," he has summoned his Central American counterparts to a meeting in the first half of September.

This meeting of the Executive Commission was initially scheduled for 5 August, but it was not held because of strained relations between Honduras and Nicaragua.

The Honduran Government has refused to attend until Nicaragua withdraws the suit it has filed with the International Court of Justice at The Hague, charging Honduras with allowing the anti-Sandinists to remain on its territory.

Cabrera, who accused the Sandinist government of failing to democratize Nicaragua, has recommended that Nicaragua be excluded from the talks that the region's foreign ministers will hold with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in New York on 23 September.

Nicaraguan Airline Office Attacked 26 Aug

PA2608160088 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1540 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 26 Aug (DPA)—Early this morning unidentified people hurled bombs at the offices of the Nicaraguan airline company Aeronica, causing some property damage, primarily broken glass, Aeronica employees told DPA. [passage omitted]

After cleaning up the broken glass, Aeronica employees were carrying out activities as usual this morning. [passage omitted]

TASS News Agency Office 'Permanently Closed'

PA2708134188 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] The Soviet news agency TASS, which was temporarily closed following a terrorist attack, has been permanently closed. Correspondent Aleksandr Trushin had returned to Guatemala to ask for security guarantees, but

they were not granted. In view of this, Trushin decided to transfer TASS facilities to Costa Rica. His personal belongings are being sent to the USSR. The TASS news agency has been permanently closed in our country.

URNG Claims Military Successes During July

PA2808155388 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 24 Aug 88 p 6

[Report by Frank Levine]

[Excerpt] Revolutionary Forces in Guatemala claim to have killed or wounded 300 government soldiers during July, according to a broadcast on the guerrilla-run radio station, "Voz Popular," received in Mexico City.

The guerrillas, representing the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (UNRG), claim to have conducted 73 operations during July, attacking 10 military installations and leaving "at least five semi-destroyed," according to a separate statement issued by ENFOPRENSA, the guerrilla-operated news agency in Mexico City.

The largest reported action occurred when a guerrilla column near the town of El Socorro in Chilmaltenango ambushed a military column. When government relief forces arrived, they opened fire on their own troops, killing and wounding an estimated 100 soldiers, according to the radio report, which said the guerrillas escaped with "light casualties." [passage omitted]

Honduras

Azcona on Bases, Ortega Letter, Contras

PA2708051388 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0325 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 26 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Today President Jose Azcona said no negotiations are underway with the United States to establish permanent military bases in Honduras.

Today the president returned from the United States, where he was treated for rhinitis. Upon arriving at the Tegucigalpa airport, he told reporters that "there are currently no negotiations with the United States for the establishment of military bases," thus refuting local newspaper rumors this week.

Azcona added that Honduras has offered to cooperate with the United States in the international struggle against drug trafficking and that the country intends to keep its word.

He admitted that thousands of contras have entered Honduras in the past few days and that this has occurred because Nicaragua has accepted the installation of rebel strong points [as received] at the border between the two countries.

He told ACAN-EFE: "It is only natural for these people, who had been fighting and have to stop because of the cease-fire, to come to Honduras. This has had negative repercussions for our country."

He also said he has discussed the problem of the contras with U.S. representatives many times. "We will never refuse humanitarian aid for this or any other group requiring it," he added.

He added that if there is no U.S. military aid for the anti-Sandinists, "we suppose those people will have to either return to Nicaragua and civilian life or leave Honduras."

Azcona said his government is willing to do everything possible to cooperate in the delivery of humanitarian aid for the contras.

The president said the lack of democracy in Nicaragua affects Honduras, and this is why he has asked the Sandinist government to democratize Nicaragua.

"We are not bystanders in this situation; we are directly involved, and that gives us the right to ask for Nicaraguan reconciliation so we no longer have to suffer the consequences or experience negative repercussions like we are experiencing now with the return of fighters and the displacement of civilians to Honduras," he emphasized.

The Honduran president said he has not answered the letter sent by his Nicaraguan counterpart, Daniel Ortega. The latter says that Nicaragua will withdraw the International Court of Justice lawsuit against Tegucigalpa if the "contras" turn in their weapons and if Honduras agrees to an international security commission along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border.

Referring to the letter, Azcona said he will read it, analyze it, and meet with the National Security Council to make the decisions "that are most appropriate for Honduras' best interests, which should always come first."

Nicaragua filed a lawsuit against Honduras at the International Court of Justice on 26 July 1986 because Honduras allowed the use of its territory by the "contras," who are struggling to oust Ortega's regime.

Ortega wrote a letter to Azcona on 24 August, 2 days after Azcona's trip to the United States for health reasons, and said that Nicaragua reasserts its "willingness to cooperate in the relocation of the irregular forces ("contras") that turn in their weapons—either in Nicaraguan territory, for those who wish to do so and take advantage of the amnesty," or in third countries.

Azcona said the Nicaraguan proposal "is not the key to the issue," because the "contras" were in Nicaragua, and not in Honduras, when the Esquipulas II agreement was signed on 7 August 1987 in Guatemala City.

"That was the best opportunity for Nicaragua's internal reconciliation, instead of waiting for the U.S. Congress to reject further military aid to the contras, which is when President Daniel Ortega's administration hardened its position," Azcona explained.

The "contras" have been operating from Honduras since 1981 with the unofficial authorization of that Central American country's government and the United States' economic and military support.

Approximately 20,000 Nicaraguans, including fighters and their relatives, are currently occupying regions in eastern El Paraiso Department, on the Nicaraguan border.

CP Leader on Party Strategy, Esquipulas, Rights

AU0908135188 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 6 Aug 88 p 4

[Report on interview with Rigoberto Padilla Rush, general secretary of the Communist Party of Honduras, by Vasil Mikulash, BTA correspondent in Havana—place and date not given]

[Text] The Communist Party of Honduras is acting underground. The names of its leaders are included on the lists of the "deaths squads." The activity of Honduran Communists under such conditions was the theme of the talk which Vasil Mikulash, BTA correspondent in Havana, conducted with Rigoberto Padilla Rush, general secretary of the Communist Party of Honduras.

[Mikulash] This year the Communist Party of Honduras marked its 34th anniversary. How would you define the tasks which the party is now facing in implementing the strategy and tactics adopted by the fourth party congress and approved by the plenum of the party Central Committee, which took place at the end of 1987?

[Padilla] The struggle for restoring the country's sovereignty was posed as a primary task of the Honduran Communists by both the fourth party congress and last year's Central Committee plenum. Simultaneously, it was decided to support the Esquipulas accords, with a view not only to consolidating our independence, but also to contributing to strengthening peace in the entire Central American region. Our party's pressing tasks are connected with the struggle for strictly implementing the agreements which were concluded in Guatemala and, more specifically, the requirements of free and genuine elections, real democracy, social justice, and respect for the right of nations to self-determination. Something more important, which has not been referred to until now in Latin America, is the demand for respecting the right of every nation to determine its own model of political, economic, and social development without foreign interference. Those are now the banners of all communist and revolutionary forces in the Central American region.

The scope of the people's movement in Honduras has grown and its contents have become richer. Great protest actions with the participation of workers, peasants, students, housewives, and progressive intellectuals have been organized during the period between the Central Committee plenum and 1 May. In the final analysis, this is a demonstration of our people's awareness, which coincides with the direction pointed out by the Communist Party. This direction corresponds with the agreements we reached with all organizations of the revolutionary left in Honduras, as well as with other patriotic forces, such as the Social Democrats, Christian Democrats, and circles of the Catholic Church. It leads toward saving national sovereignty, removing the U.S. troops and Somoza contras from our territory, and stopping the military maneuvers in the region, especially those which are taking place on our territory. This is the best possible contribution to strengthening peace in Central America, which leads toward our own national liberation and the achieving of independence.

[Mikulash] How do you evaluate the actions of the Honduran Government in implementing the agreements of Esquipulas, when dependence on Washington is taken into consideration? To what degree could Honduras implement the agreements against the background of the constant U.S. presence in the country and the existence of Nicaraguan contras bases?

[Padilla] First, at the very beginning, President Jose Azcona Hoyo and Foreign Minister Lopez Contreras declared that they are not inclined to implement the Esquipulas agreements, despite the fact that these agreements had been signed by Azcona. Furthermore, Contreras even had the audacity to say at the National Assembly that these are merely formal agreements and that Honduras does not intend to fulfill them. From that moment, we, the leftist and patriotic forces of Honduras, labeled the government's attitude as subversive because in agreement with Washington, the government put obstacles in the way of implementing the Esquipulas agreements. Special U.S. emissaries appeared in Honduras. The contras were not ousted, and only their transfer to other places was simulated. The truth is that they found refuge in the barracks of the Honduran Army. While the Honduran people demanded the expulsion of the contras, the Army was talking about regrouping and transferring them. Furthermore, Azcona openly prevented progress at the Sapoa talks. With its flexible and dynamic foreign policy the Sandinist government succeeded in foiling these maneuvers and forced the contras to negotiate on Nicaraguan territory.

[Mikulash] Nicaragua accused the Honduran Government of fanning the struggle among the contras and helping the groups which oppose the agreements of Esquipulas and Sapoa....

[Padilla] This is true. The Honduran Army is helping Enrique Bermudez in any way it can. There is something else, which also is very important. Washington thinks

that the plans to subvert the Esquipulas agreements have failed and that the contras can no longer be a strategic force in its designs because of the demoralization in their ranks and the split caused by the Sapoa agreements. Thus Washington is striving now to escalate the military intervention by using the Honduran Army against the patriots of the "Farabundo Marti" Front in El Salvador.

[Mikulash] Has there been a change in the U.S. presence in Honduras after the recent people's protests against this presence?

[Padilla] As long as the U.S. troops are stationed in Palmerola and Golosan in Atlantida and Aguacate in Olancho it would be very difficult to implement the Esquipulas agreements. Those troops are unwanted in Honduras and could become at any time the target of an attack by the partisan groups or the population itself.

The U.S. military presence also disturbs a certain part of the Honduran Army. There is a movement in the Honduran Army and in its nationalistic circles to oppose the U.S. presence. One should not underestimate this factor.

[Mikulash] The violations of human rights are continuing in Honduras. The statistics show that the number is increasing.

[Padilla] According to evidence presented at the Inter-American Human Rights Court in San Jose, Costa Rica, some 200 people's leaders of various organizations have disappeared in Honduras. Our deputy general secretary is among them. Recently, in the course of an investigation in San Jose, it was established that a special "Batallion 316" led by Colonel Hernandez is playing the main role in these "kidnappings." Not only has the colonel not been sentenced, but he has been promoted, awarded, and is now the director of the school of the Honduran national police. All those who testified have been threatened with death. One of the witnesses, an officer of the Honduran Army, was killed in the middle of the street in Tegucigalpa. It was not by accident that Honduras has been pointed out by UN General Secretary Xavier Perez de Cuellar as a typical example of a country in which human rights are being violated under the disguise of representative democracy.

[Mikulash] Could one speak of the existence of armed resistance in Honduras?

[Padilla] An armed people's struggle exists in our country. Yesterday it was announced that there had been armed clashes in the departments of Yoro, Atlantida, and Olancho. There had been a receding tide in the armed struggle, but it has been activated again as a response by the masses to the institutional oppression on the part of the government. We, the Communists, have repeatedly declared that oppression is a part of the arsenal of the Honduran Army and the occupational U.S. troops. The people are merely defending themselves. In a letter to President Azconda Hoyo, signed by 5 revolutionary organizations, we stated that if Tegucigalpa blocks the peaceful ways of discussion, opened by Esquipulas, there will be an armed insurrection of our people, which will end with the restoration of the sovereignty of Honduras.

[Mikulash] What kind of underground methods is the Communist Party of Honduras using?

[Padilla] Almost all our members are in Honduras, albeit underground. The Communists and those suspected of being Communists who are not working underground are targets of persecution and receive "death sentences." This, for example, is the case with me. We are included on "blacklists." The "death squads" are threatening not only us but also the leaders of other revolutionary organizations and the activists of the human rights movement. Repression in Honduras is a daily event.

Nicaragua

Ortega Sends Letter to Honduran President

PA2608141388 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 26 Aug 88 p 4

["Text" of letter from President Daniel Ortega Saavedra to Honduran President Jose Azcona—dated 24 August]

[Text] Managua, 24 August 1988

For an honorable peace, free fatherland or death!

Your Excellency, Jose Azcona Hoyo,
President of Honduras
Tegucigalpa

Mr President:

Since 1981 relations between Nicaragua and Honduras have been seriously affected by the presence and activities of contra mercenary forces in Honduran territory. At the same time, that presence—financed, organized, and directed by the U.S. Government—has become the main factor in the regional crisis.

Nicaragua and various friendly countries have frequently and consistently tried to find a peaceful solution based on international law for this situation created by the presence and activities of the contras. Unfortunately, those efforts have not yet produced the expected results.

We feel that at this stage, recriminations and accusations would not contribute to peace. It is time to begin effective and clear actions that may lead to the establishment of firm and durable peace in Central America, as the area presidents intended with the signing of the Esquipulas II agreement.

It is presently a well-known fact that almost all the mercenary contra forces—about 7,000 men—have reentered Honduran territory. Those forces are mainly

concentrated in the Capire and Yamales sectors, El Paraiso Department. In other words, those forces have again gathered in their traditional camps in Honduran territory, from where their main communications centers, command posts, and operational bases have operated during the past few years to conduct their war of aggression.

Both the Honduran newspapers and international press carry daily, wide coverage on this situation. On the other hand, various news media have reported the so-called contra Directorate is currently meeting in Tegucigalpa following the split that occurred in San Jose, Costa Rica, last weekend. New armed and terrorist actions against Nicaragua are planned at these meetings.

These circumstances, President Azcona, make it necessary to implement strong measures against the mercenary forces consonant with the commitments outlined in treaties currently in effect between the two countries and with general and generally practiced international law.

Those actions would be aimed, first, at disarming the mercenary forces and moving them away from the border. For its part, the Nicaguan Government reiterates its willingness to help relocate the disarmed irregular forces either in Nicaragua for those who so desire and who accept amnesty, or in third countries willing to receive them as immigrants.

Such an action toward the contras, President Azcona, would allow the restoration of peace at the border and would greatly contribute to regional peace. By eliminating the source of tension between the two countries, our governments will then be able to work in peace toward strengthening their historic links of unity and fraternity, and toward a free, democratic, and independent Central America, where the peoples' will is respected and, for the first time in the history of our two nations, individual rights will be a matter of pride in Central America and not the cause of persecution and death.

Time is so crucial, President Azcona, that we can say regional peace and our people's tranquillity is in your hands. A positive reply will open new horizons of peace between Nicaragua and Honduras and throughout Central America. Another refusal to take actions based on international law will mean the continuation of war and tension in the area, with the grave risks it entails for the area's peace and security.

We also reiterate our proposal to establish, with UN guidance, a system for international observers—with the participation of Canada, Spain, the FRG, and a representative from the Contadora and Support Groups—at the border between the two countries, to prevent situations such as the one we are currently facing.

With the installation of a multinational commission of observers at the Honduran-Nicaraguan border, the Nicaraguan Government would be willing to seek an extralegal agreement—outside of a court—as long as the Nicaraguan and Honduran Governments reserve the right to resort to the International Court of Justice whenever they deem convenient—because under no circumstances can any country waive the right to use international legal mechanisms to resolve disputes between states. Such a situation would legitimize the use of force and would close the possibilities for a peaceful and negotiated solution.

Trusting, Mr President, that you will rightly assess the current situation and this new Nicaraguan proposal, please accept fraternal and Central American greetings.

Daniel Ortega Saavedra

Ortega Discusses Letter

PA2608143588 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1223 GMT 26 Aug 88

["Excerpt" of speech by President Daniel Ortega on a "Face the People" meeting with participants of the Third World Assembly of Community Radios at Managua's Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center on 25 August—recorded]

[Text] The contras are leaving some units—terrorist units, criminal units—in our territory to continue attacking the civilian population and murdering children and youths while the main part of the mercenary forces, numbering about 7,000, has been taken to Honduran territory, specifically to Yamales and Capire. That is where the camps installed by the Yankee government are located in Honduran territory. They have been there since 1981, since Reagan took office. Those camps have been there since then. They have received all the support, financing, and logistics of the Yankee government with the complicity of the Honduran Government.

Today I sent a letter to President Azcona in which I tell him he now has in his hands the possibility of achieving great progress for peace. They themselves admit the main part of the contra forces are in Yamales and Capire in Honduran territory. They are involved in military training to come and murder the Nicaraguan people. Through the Honduran Government, they are receiving so-called humanitarian aid. The Honduran Government has authorized this, and the Yankees are bringing the so-called humanitarian aid. I told President Azcona that if the contras are there, this would be an opportunity for him to fulfill the Esquipulas agreement. President Azcona promised through the Esquipulas agreement to dismantle the counterrevolutionary camps. If most of the contras are now in Honduran territory, this would be an opportunity for Honduras to tell them: Gentlemen, those who wish to, may go to Nicaragua. I tell Azcona in the letter we will give every guarantee to those who wish to accept amnesty, and

for those who do not wish to do so, we are willing to undertake the necessary efforts to ensure other countries will receive these counterrevolutionaries.

I told President Azcona that we maintain the proposal to establish in the border zone one or several posts of observers with Spain, the FRG, Canada, and one Latin American country from the Group of Eight represented. They would guarantee Honduran territory would not be used to attack the Nicaraguan people. If Honduras feels threatened by Nicaragua, those security forces would also guarantee that Nicaragua would not pose a threat to Honduras.

He had replied that he would accept this if we were to withdraw the suit at the International Court of Justice [ICJ]. We have filed a suit against Honduras at the ICJ. I replied that we could accept an extrajudicial agreement that would leave both Honduras and Nicaragua free to turn to the ICJ any time we saw fit, because we cannot totally waive the use of a legal instrument such as the ICJ. If we did so, we would simply be saying that the legal mechanisms to solve problems do not exist and we would be endorsing solutions of force, military solutions. We cannot surrender legal mechanisms. We cannot renounce the use of the ICJ.

Of course, Honduras is afraid of the court, because it is known to be a criminal. A criminal fears the judge. Those who have not committed a crime are not afraid of the judge. We went to the judge to accuse the United States, and because the United States was a criminal, the judge issued a ruling convicting it. Because Honduras has not accepted reason and has continued acting like a criminal, we took Honduras to court. Honduras is angry we did this, even though it is most natural, because problems cannot and should not be resolved with gunfire. One must seek legal mechanisms, mechanisms of negotiations. That is precisely the reason why the United Nations was established in the United States after World War II. It was established to avoid new wars, so big and small states would have instruments of negotiation to reach agreements on the problems they might be facing. Therefore, we cannot deny the ICJ its role.

I told President Azcona we are willing to reach an extrajudicial agreement, an agreement outside the court, but including the establishment of a multinational force. The multinational force has to be established first, and then we would begin working on an agreement outside the court. However, the commitment would be that both Honduras and Nicaragua would be free to resort to the court again if we believe the other side is violating what we have agreed. In other words, we cannot waive the use of these international legal mechanisms.

Let us see how President Azcona replies, because he has the contras in his territory. The contras are training there; they are being visited by journalists. Even the U.S. press is visiting the contras in Yamales and Capire in Honduran territory; the journalists are seeing how the contras are training and how they are receiving supplies. They are training to continue their terrorist actions against the Nicaraguan people.

President Azcona has a commitment to comply with Esquipulas. This is the opportunity he has to fulfill it. If he fulfills it, he would be making a great contribution to peace in Central America. He would be showing that he has some strength, that he is capable of acting, even against the will of the Yankee government. Will he able to do so? We are obliged to try. He must decide. If he does not, it will be worse for Central Americans, worse for peace, so much worse for Honduras, because Honduras would continue to be an accomplice of the illegal terrorist policy the Yankee government has been unleashing against the Nicaraguan people all these years.

I had wanted to make these comments before listening to you in these meetings, which we call "Face the People." We are interested in openly debating these topics no matter how controversial, to enrich our revolutionary process. We think the debate of political, economic, social, religious, or any type of topic brings forth new elements that will enrich our revolutionary process. This has been the experience of these meetings we have with the Nicaraguan people and with foreign delegations when they visit our country.

Ramirez on War Impact on Economy, U.S. Role

PA2808134488 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Statement by Vice President Sergio Ramirez on "Face the People" program at the Third World Assembly of Community Radios at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua on 25 August—recorded]

[Text] In 1980, the Nicaraguan gross domestic product increased 22 percent, which is one of highest rates ever achieved in Latin America. We were then in the process of reconstructing the country. This rate began to spiral downward as the aggression grew stronger. All the resources that had been used for development, agricultural improvement, farm machinery, support for cooperatives, and investment projects to improve the country's economy—such as constructing highways, schools, and health-care centers—were consigned to the war effort. Together with this change in the use of economic resources, there was the destruction caused by the war. There was not only loss of life, which was the most costly for the country—the dead, wounded, maimed, and orphaned—but economic destruction, destruction of resources, and the destruction of any hopes to carry out development projects.

Therefore, for every dollar that the United States invested in this war of aggression, we lost $10. This is not only in the physical destruction of agricultural machinery, mining sites, roads, and cooperatives, but also the disruption that war brings to production. Labor that

should normally be applied to agriculture, industry, and services was being lost to the war fronts. The resources used in the war represent one-half of the government's expenditures.

As President Ortega explained at the National Planning Council meetings, this matter is discussed and discussed, but there is no solution. As long as there is war, one-half—or as much as necessary—of government resources will be expended on the war. The only thing that can be sacrificed to sustain the nation's defense are health, education, and housing programs. The revolutionary government is trying to prevent a further deterioration of the situation, to maintain some order in the crisis, to manage the crisis. It is something that we cannot solve overnight. Under peaceful conditions, Nicaragua will have ample time to rebuild the economy. This task would probably take us into the 21st century.

The magnitude of the confrontation between the most powerful economic and military country and a nation that has only its determination and meager resources with which to defend itself has to have an enormous impact on the country's economic and social life, which is what we are experiencing right now.

Therefore, when the U.S. Administration says that Mr Shultz was preaching throughout South America that the Nicaraguan economy is a real disaster, this is compelling evidence of cynicism. The crisis in the Nicaraguan economy has been caused by U.S. aggression. How could our economy not be in a state of crisis? How could our country while defending itself against a foreign nation at the same time be prosperous and not have economic problems? It is difficult to summon our inner strength and to defend ourselves to the detriment of our economy.

Therefore, aggression and economic problems are two things that are intimately connected. Peace to guarantee the country's independence, dignity, and sovereignty will again open an opportunity for the economic reconstruction of Nicaragua.

Assembly Approves New Electoral Law 24 Aug

PA2508154488 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Excerpts] At 1845 yesterday, after 10 exhaustive days, including 976 opinions by political party representatives, the 217 articles of the Electoral Law with constitutional rank were approved.

After 66 hours, the National Assembly's 12th session concluded when the legislative branch's president stated that the law is subject to changes.

[Assembly President] Commander Carlos Nunez pointed to the opposition bloc's contribution toward improving that law. He said that although it contains delicate issues, the representatives were understanding. The parliamentarians focused attention on the articles allowing mobilized military men to vote in municipalities where they are at the time and the need to ensure religious radio stations do not broadcast political propaganda.

Another article that generated intense debate was the one regarding the time allotted for use of the media by political parties during the electoral campaign.

Nicaragua and its working people awakened to an electoral law fully drafted by Nicaraguans. Throughout the country's history, such laws had been imposed and drafted by U.S. people.

Among the articles of the Electoral Law approved last night by the National Assembly plenum are: definition of the National Assembly's scope in reviewing [conocer] and approving the Electoral Law, the pluralist membership of the various electoral branch organizations, definition of the popular registration concept, and the election of president and vice president of the Republic and representatives to the National Assembly.

In a historic session, the parliamentarians approved an article banning foreign donations to political parties during political campaigns and the voting. The Electoral Law also defines the National Council of Political Parties, the duration of campaigns, financing, resignations, and access to the media.

Article 205 states that requests for legal status, which are being processed by the Council of Political Parties—that is, pending cases as the law takes effect—will be processed in form and substance in accordance to the Law of Political Parties.

Guillermo Mejia, deputy of the opposition Popular Social Christian Party, disagreed that the allotment of media time for political parties in the political campaign be proportional, because the Democratic Conservative Party exists at the expense of small parties. [passage omitted]

In commenting on religious radio stations, religious leader Sixto Ulloa of the Sandinist bloc supported Leoncio Rayo, who had requested that religious stations not broadcast political propaganda at any time. [passage omitted]

FSLN representative Dr Danilo Aguirre disagreed with a provision stating that religious radio stations should not broadcast political propaganda at any time. He believes they should be able to carry them during electoral campaigns. [passage omitted]

Assembly's Nunez Notes Splits in Opposition

PA2808233588 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 25 Aug 88 p 4

Passages in uppercase as published]

[Text] None of the opposition political parties that seek to be an alternative to the FSLN has been able to draft a coherent political government platform to gain the recognition of the Nicaraguan people and to be considered seriously as an alternative for power.

This was stated by Commander Carlos Nunez, president of the Assembly, referring to the splits experienced daily by both rightist and leftist opposition parties.

"By not having a (governing) plan, by not defining their position regarding the reagan Administration and its warmongering policy or with regard to the counterrevolutionaries, they vaccilate in their political positions, thus causing contradictions within their ranks," he said.

Nunez added that as a result of this situation, a sector "seeks to defend the option of defending the revolution and the current Nicaraguan political system, maintaining its differences with the FSLN but trying to achieve a political coexistence."

"There is another sector that believes that the best way to pressure the FSLN is by joining the rightist positions and waiting to see what happens and what future awaits the U.S.-supported counterrevolution," he said. "Hence, their positions in the face of political negotiation are those of blackmail, pressure, and terms setting. From this standpoint, they cannot maintain internal unity, and there is a trend toward division, dispersion, and a breaking of this unity as a national political phenomenon in Nicaragua."

LACK OF PARTY PROGRAMS HAS PRECEDENT [subhead]

Nunez recalled that a lack of political planning by the opposition parties and the absence of an ideological platform date back to 1975, when the Somozist dictatorship crisis emerged.

"Only the FSLN, which already had a historical program, a correct strategy for overthrowing the dictatorship (which was the armed struggle), using all means available, was capable of uniting at the precise moment to achieve power."

FSLN IS UNITED [subhead]

"The only organization that is homogenous, united, and grouped around a social base capable of defending the revolution and guaranteeing the future of this people is the FSLN," Nunez said. He added that the rest of the parties "will continue to split up, and their contradictions will grow. At this moment there is an ideological struggle between those who side with the revolution and those who favor the imperialist option with the Somozist counterrevolution as the military alternative. This latter group seeks to become a political branch of the contras and a civic alternative in the country."

"They (the opposition parties and groups) did not avail themselves of the national dialogue (from which they withdrew unilateraly last 23 April), refusing to set up and discuss an agenda. Then the government decided to go ahead and strengthen the revolutionary institutions."

"Now they are concerned about the approval of the law of municipalities, which was a topic of the national dialogue, as well as the results of the electoral law. In fact we can state emphatically that the 12 people who withdrew from the National Assembly (when the draft bill was presented) tried to return to the Assembly, but due to pressures by groups such as the Ramiro Sacasa Coordinating Board, they were unable to rejoin the debates."

Aeronica: U.S. 'Endorsed' Terrorist Acts
PA2708135388 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1225 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Excerpt] The general management of Aerolineas de Nicaragua, Aeronica, condemned yesterday's attack on its regional offices in Guatemala City. Aeronica General Manager Julio Rocha said: We condemn these terrorist actions, endorsed by U.S. imperialism. He described the action as a political attack. Once again we have witnessed actions by Guatemalan rightist sectors which, endorsed by U.S. imperialism, are trying to intimidate us and to block the development of our national airline, Rocha added.

The general manager added that the Guatemalan police are in charge of the investigations to find the perpetrators of the attack who, using an unidentified vehicle, hurled two fragmentation grenades at Aeronica's regional offices in Guatemala City. [passage omitted]

URNG Commander Monsanto To Meet With Ortega
PA2808015388 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Report by Armando Lopez, from CERIGUA]

[Text] Commander Pablo Monsanto of the Guatemalan URNG arrived in Managua last night, and within the next few hours he will meet with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. Monsanto, a member of the URNG's General Command, heads the first official high-level delegation of the Guatemalan insurgency to visit Nicaragua.

On Tuesday and Wednesday this week, the URNG delegation met in San Jose with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias and members of the Guatemalan National Reconciliation Commission.

Upon his arrival in Managua, the Guatemalan guerrilla leader said that his objective was to present to the Nicaraguan Government the URNG's view on the war in Guatemala and on the status of the Esquipulas II regional peace agreements. Monsanto reaffirmed the willingness of the URNG to visit the governments of the region to express the views of the Guatemalan insurgency.

The URNG delegation headed by Monsanto includes Miguel Angel Sandoval, Luis Becker, Francisco Villagran, and Hector Luila. Monsanto said that the meeting he will hold within the next few hours with Ortega is related to the URNG's promotion of Esquipulas II.

Protest at Salvador Embassy Over Death of Swiss

PA2708140488 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1212 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Approximately 200 volunteers and people of various nationalities gathered yesterday afternoon in front of the Salvadoran Embassy to protest the killing of Swiss citizen Juergen Weiss. Weiss, a member of the organization Secretariat for Central America, arrived in El Salvador in July to promote projects for humanitarian aid to Salvadorans. [passage omitted]

Particularly notable among the demonstrators were members of the Salvadoran community, who expressed their rejection of the criminal policy pursued by Napoleon Duarte's administration. [passage omitted]

The Salvadoran Embassy kept its doors closed despite the call by a delegation of Salvadorans and Swiss citizens who sought to deliver a document protesting the death of Swiss citizen Juergen Weiss. The document, signed by the hundreds of demonstrators who gathered in front of the embassy, demands that the Salvadoran regime investigate the murder and punish those responsible.

Two Salvadorans and two Swiss citizens waited patiently for over 15 minutes for a Salvadoran Embassy or Consulate official to come out and receive the document. The protestors finally decided to slip the document under the door. They expressed their determination to denounce internationally the attitude of the Salvadoran diplomats as a form of silent complicity with the Swiss citizen's murderers. [passage omitted]

Briefs

CZECHOSLOVAK NEWS AGENCY Office

The Czechoslovak ambassador yesterday announced that the CZECHOSLOVAK NEWS AGENCY, CTK, will open an office in Managua. He said that journalist (Lora Kovalcikova) will be in charge of the CTK office. The ambassador added that his government regards the opening of the CTK office as important for the strengthening of relations between Nicaragua and Czechoslovakia. [Text] [*PA2808161788 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Aug 88*]

Panama

Minister Says U.S. 'Letting Up' on Sanctions

PA2708023988 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2055 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Panama City, 26 Aug (DPA)—Today the Panamanian Government said that Washington's decision to lift some of the economic sanctions imposed against that country "will have a positive effect."

"Yes, we have the feeling the United States is letting up," Commerce and Industries Minister [Mario Rognoni] told DPA, and he added that the United States is "probably taking back some of the sanctions they imposed, and if this is so, there will be a positive psychological effect on the attitude of businessmen with regard to Panama's economic future."

The Reagan administration announced yesterday it will allow U.S. businesses in Panama to pay import duties, international banking licenses, post office taxes, and other legal fees to the unrecognized government headed by Manuel Solis Palma.

"Even though the lifting of the sanctions will not account for much money for the national treasury, it will have a good psychological effect," the Panamanian commerce and industries minister said.

Rognoni said the lifting of the sanctions will allow U.S. businesses to work more comfortably and will give Panamanian businessmen a better chance of survival despite the current state of the country's economy.

Housing Minister on Nonrenewal of U.S. Leases

PA2708175788 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1655 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] The United States must pay its debt to Panama for the housing leases. Housing leases for U.S. Armed Forces personnel in Panama will not be renewed until Ronald Reagan's administration pays its debt to the national government, Housing Minister Ricardo Bermudez said.

The U.S. Government owes Panama $800,000 in rent for 190 housing units, Bermudez said. He added that these units are used by members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The minister added that a check issued by the U.S. Department of Defense, which had been turned over to the Panamanian Government in partial payment of this obligation, had subsequently been voided by an executive order issued by President Ronald Reagan, which forbids all payments of taxes or other payments to Manuel Solis Palma's administration.

Finally, it was said that the Panamanian Government, through the Foreign Ministry, is taking the necessary steps to collect payment on the debt.

Suspension of Services Urged

PA2708153288 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 26 Aug 88 p 5

[From the "Vox Populi" column by Luis Restrepo: "Let's Suspend Those Services"]

[Text] During the Torrijos-Carter Panama Canal Treaties negotiations, the United States asked Panama to allow U.S. employees who work for the canal to pay income taxes to the U.S. Treasury.

Panama opposed this because that is income earned from a Panamanian source and because the taxes serve to cover, among other things, public services provided by the Panamanian Government and from which those employees benefit.

It was finally agreed that the employees would pay income tax to the United States and that the United States would pay the Panamanian Government $10 million annually to reimburse it for the cost of such services as police and fire department protection, street repairs and maintenance, street lights, and operation and maintenance of traffic lights.

Through the exchange of diplomatic notes before the treaty went into effect, it was agreed that the payments would be made monthly because Panama would incur these expenditures daily.

Since February 1988, the United States has stopped paying for the aforementioned public services as part of the measures of economic aggression ordered by President Reagan.

This means that from the limited resources at the disposal of the Panamanian Government to provide health, education, and food to the Panamanian people, $5 million have been used to subsidize the canal "zonians."

To the $5 million we must add the $1 million they have stopped paying in rent for the residences provided by Panama to house military personnel and their families.

To this must also be added the millions of dollars swindled from Panama monthly when the "zonians" illegally buy food, liquor, clothing, appliances, perfumes, jewelry, and furniture in the U.S. Army commissaries in Panama.

In the view of this situation, in view of these terrorist actions, the Panamanian Government should quickly order the eviction of the tenants who owe money and put them out in the streets with their families and furniture. It should suspend the repair of streets, stop the functioning of traffic lights, withdraw police protection for them, etc.

The Panama Canal Commission does not provide transit services to a ship that does not pay its tolls. Panama should suspend services to the "zonians" because they have not paid for them for 7 months.

B-52's at U.S. Base; 'Aggression' Intended

PA2708151088 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 27 Aug 88 pp 1, 18

[Text] Last night four B-52 bombers landed at Howard [Air Force Base] to increase the number of U.S. soldiers and weapons in the Republic of Panama. U.S. soldiers are on general alert with the intention of carrying out an infamous aggression against our country.

These bombers are being kept loaded with bombs so that they can be used against our country at a moment's notice.

The bombers are painted green with "camouflage" markings, making it difficult to spot them from a distance. It was also observed that there is much troop movement at Howard. Soldiers, wearing their uniforms and helmets, have been seen walking around or in vehicles.

At the time these pictures were taken—the bombers were parked in an area removed from the main highway leading to Veracruz—CRITICA reporters were being followed by soldiers dressed in civilian clothing who were patrolling the area in rented cars.

These same cars are being used by U.S. soldiers to patrol Panama City and to report on the Panama Defense Forces' every move. As something new, the soldiers patrol the city accompanied by a woman—usually a female soldier—and they are dressed in civilian clothing so as to not attract attention.

[The article is accompanied by a black-and-white photograph showing the tail of one aircraft and the nose of a second aircraft. The caption reads: "The photograph shows two of the four bombers that landed last night at the Yankee airport in Howard to 'reinforce' the forces that remain on the warpath against the Republic of Panama."]

U.S. Fighters Reportedly Violate Airspace

PA2708022688 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2142 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Panama City, 26 Aug (DPA)—The Panamanian Government will report to the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO, that several commercial aircraft flying in Panamanian airspace have been intercepted by U.S. Air Force fighter aircraft stationed in the Panama Canal area.

Panamanian Civil Aeronautics Director Mayor Pascual Gonzalez, who released this information, said the Panamanian representative to the ICAO Council has already been instructed to report this situation.

According to Gonzalez, in-flight interception of commercial aircraft within Panamanian-controlled airspace constitutes a violation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties signed in 1977.

Local authorities previously reported that Eastern Airlines and Colombian passenger planes had been intercepted by U.S. military aircraft while flying in Panamanian airspace.

U.S. Said Increasing 'Psychological Pressure'

PA2808174788 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 28 Aug 88 p 4-A

[Editorial: "Psychological Aggression"]

[Text] The Americans, along with Panamanian traitors, are intensifying their psychological pressure against Panama. The former are doing so with reports about rapes, persecution of U.S. soldiers, and harassment of U.S. citizens who live here. Meanwhile, "big mouth" [Juan] Sosa does not tire of talking about preparations to invade Panama to kill Panamanians so that he and his cohorts can turn Panama into a U.S. satellite.

Colonel Aquilino Sieiro was very clear when he said that a theater of war is being created in Panama with the deployment of troops that train in the jungles near the [U.S.] military bases. When they return from their enforced training, the troops realize that there is no Vietnam here, which is what they had been told. They realize that this is a country living in peace, and then they ask themselves why they have been sent to this nation.

Meanwhile, Reagan's disciples do not cease their harassment of our territory through low overflights in several locations in the interior as well as with "Black Hawk" helicopter flights. Those helicopters recently carried out unauthorized approach exercises over the Omar Torrijos Herrera Airport.

In addition, four B-52 bombers arrived at Howard Air Force Base to cause panic among our people by threatening them with an invasion, because with such military aircraft, our main cities could disappear from the map in the blink of an eye.

"Big mouth" Sosa does not tire of making up rumors about the presence in Panama of Israeli antiterrorist units to train our units and about the presence of Nicaraguan experts to give us espionage training. We do not know what could be spied on, because the U.S. actions against our country have been openly demonstrated. The rumormonger, allegedly Panama's representative in Washington, claims that Colombian M-19 battalions are entering the country through Darien to ward off an invasion, which we all know is being prepared in Costa Rica, supposedly with the participation of Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Herrera, who, according to Sosa, is already in that sister country.

The U.S. aggression against our country continues. Because the United States, through the Mortgage Bank, owes Panamanians 800,000 balboas, it is now taking seditious Panamanian families to the military bases, supposedly to save them from any harm when the invasion comes.

However, our Defense Forces and Dignity Brigades are ready to repel any armed attack against our government, and, because of this, we are not frightened by the psychological onslaught that they have been launching against us.

The Panamanian people will continue to calmly resist, strengthened by the courage we have gained from the knowledge that this is our land and that we will defend it in whatever way we can. If they want another Vietnam in Panama, it is going to cost them many U.S. lives. They will see that Latin America will raise its voice of condemnation when it sees how one of the world's empires satifies its desire to attack a weak nation such as ours simply because it seeks to eliminate the Torrijos-Carter treaties and to maintain its military bases here.

FDP Officers Discuss U.S. Harassment Charges

PA2708005188 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2320 GMT 26 Aug 88

[News conference held by Lieutenant Colonel Aquilino Sieiro Murgas, chairman of the Panama Canal Treaty Combined Board; Major Edgardo Lopez Grimaldo, chief of information and public relations of the Panama Defense Forces (FDP); Major Roberto Perez Bardales, chief of the military police battalion; Captain Ricardo Guardia Figueroa, chief of the 8th Military Police Company in the Atlantic region; Captain Moises Cortizo Cohen, chief of the Victoriano Lorenzo 5th Military Police Company in the Pacific region; and Mrs Aida Jurado, legal adviser to the FDP's General Command of the Defense and Security Commission (Cogecodese), with reporters at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Panama City on 26 August—recorded]

[Text] [Lopez] Good afternoon. We are at a disadvantage here; you outnumber us. [laughter] We have been ordered to hold this news conference for the national and international news media—especially for the international news media. We are holding it mainly because of the intense and virulent campaign that has recently been unleashed by THE NEW YORK TIMES, which leads all newspapers in making completely false accusations against a specific institution in our country. It is a highly sensitive institution because of the duties it performs and because its commander is a soldier who has been humiliated, bombarded, and has been the object of slanderous remarks for many months, as you know. This sensitive institution, made up of soldiers, has been the object of attacks that are part of a plan, which we suspect is the prelude of worse things to come.

It is necessary to add to the things already mentioned recently by Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter and by a team of advisers and officials, including Colonel Sieiro; add to the usual comprehensive list of U.S. violations of the Panama Canal Treaties; add the institution, which we believe is the center of the attack—the FDP—in order to degrade, weaken, and divide it. [sentence as heard] [It is necessary to] compare it [not further identified] to the

events that took place in Santo Domingo in 1965 prior to the invasion that is sadly recorded in the history of relations between the United States and its brothers in Latin America.

This is the plan, and that is why you may note that all those present here, including the lady working for Cogecodese, comprise the military team that will denounce and emphatically deny the reports released by the U.S. State Department, the Defense Department, and, supposedly, by the Southern Command through THE NEW YORK TIMES, as we mentioned earlier.

Since Captain Cortizo is the man who is continuously getting a feel for what is going on in the military areas, as chief of the military police in the Pacific area, he will make the opening statement and he will begin the news conference.

[Cortizo] Good afternoon, I am Capt Moises Cortizo, chief of the 5th Military Police company in the Pacific area. I want to talk about the charges made by various U.S. newspapers, which are trying to disinform the educated people of America.

The U.S. Armed Forces, which are stationed in the Republic of Panama because of stipulations in the Panama Canal Treaties regarding the protection and defense of the canal, have taken on the task of reporting to the world alleged actions carried out by the FDP against the U.S. military and civilian community.

There is no doubt that these reports are part of a plan designed by the U.S. Government to weaken not only the Panamanian Government but the FDP as well.

Since the political disturbances began in June 1987, U.S. citizens have been detected participating in these demonstrations. This violated the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs and domestic political activities of the Republic of Panama, as stated in Article 2 of the agreement for the implementation of Article 4 of the Panama Canal treaty. However, the FDP, in order to preserve the spirit of cooperation between both forces, a characteristic of our mutual relations, turned those citizens over without filing any charges.

The measures adopted by the government for the preservation of constitutional order have not been respected by the U.S. Armed Forces under the pretext of the so-called right to free transit through the Republic of Panama, as stated in Article 15 of the agreement for the implementation of Article 4 of the treaty. In the past few months, they have carried out a considerable display of military equipment and troops in our air and sea and on our land, thereby disregarding the operational procedures agreed upon in bilateral organizations, the Combined Board, and the Joint Committee. They have violated Panama's sovereignty and they have endangered the physical and mental security of the Panamanian people, who are not used to seeing military units deployed in their streets and avenues.

It is appropriate to mention that the aforementioned free transit is a benefit that resulted from a unilateral interpretation of the treaties. This is typical of the arrogant way in which the United States has sought to violate the most basic principles of international law throughout history. Since 7 September 1977, the Republic of Panama has fulfilled the pledges that it made in the treaties, and that principle shall prevail until 31 December 1999.

The Defense Forces and the Panamanian people have clearly seen the U.S. Armed Forces' hostile attitude and provocations, which have increased since the U.S. Armed Forces' presence was increased in April 1988. The new forces brought with them a war psychosis, arrogance, and aggressiveness against the Republic of Panama, which have provoked grave incidents that have endangered our national security.

Those soldiers were brainwashed before being sent to Panama with the intention of turning a political problem into a military problem. The problem was avoided thanks to the professionalism, patience, and tolerance of our Defense Forces and the Panamanian people.

I will now give you details of certain cases that we have detected during our military police duties. They will confirm the U.S. Armed Forces' hostile and aggressive attitude.

1. Excessive use of force when arresting Panamanian citizens:

We can mention an example: On 26 October 1987, Alfredo Barrigon, a 13-year-old boy, a 13-year-old boy [repeats himself] was brought to the military police from Fort Clayton. He was arrested in Curundu by James Dussot, a U.S. military policeman with social security number 366-94-3315, who had ordered his dog to attack the boy. The boy was bitten on both legs.

On 23 April 1988, Panamanian citizen Jose Angel Zarate was arrested by U.S. soldiers Brian Wright and Timothy Burtladery for the alleged theft of a motorcycle. However, Sergeant Wright used brute force at the time of the arrest and beat up the Panamanian to the extent that his jaw was fractured.

Yesterday, Panamanian citizens Pablo Serrano, with identification card No 6-77-313, and Sebastian Poveda Guevara, with identification card No 6-27-430, were arrested at the base of Cabra Hill—reportedly because they were in a restricted area. The plants and house that have been there since 1986 were destroyed, even though they had been duly authorized by the Institute of Renewable Natural Resources.

2. Unilateral Closure of the Pan-American Highway:

On 12 April 1988, the Pan-American Highway was unilaterally closed. This not only violates the Torrijos-Carter treaties, because the area is under Panamanian jurisdiction, but it also violates international agreements that require the Republic of Panama to keep the highway accessible at all times. The U.S. Marines closed the highway for approximately 3 hours, creating lots of tension. The U.S. soldiers pointed their weapons at Lieutenant Sidney Lyon, a member of the Panamanian Military Police, when he ordered them to reopen the highway. It is appropriate to mention that they said that any Panamanian who tried to open the highway would be shot on the spot.

That same day, U.S. Marines fought among themselves near the Rodman Naval Base's tank farm, due to their war psychosis. The same situation had happened the previous day, resulting in the death of a soldier, Ricardo Villahermosa.

On 12 April, I had the opportunity to accompany General Loefke, chief of the U.S. Army Southern Command, when he visited the area where the shoot-out was taking place. I still remember that the patrol which was firing the shots repeated over the radio that they were surrounded and that most of the intruders were located between their position and ours. Following repeated appeals to Gen Loefke, he personally ordered the soldiers to leave the area. Not a single intruder was ever found between their position and ours. The U.S. Armed Forces continue to complain about a series of raids, which they say have been confirmed, within the boundaries of their defense facilities.

We believe that they are making these charges either to justify the death of young soldiers or to provoke a military action against our country. We are still waiting for them to present to Panama evidence in regard to what we Panamanians refer to as the palm trees war.

On 28 May 1988, as a result of U.S. Armed Forces negligence and poor security measures, two young Panamanians—Anibal Yamil Estrada, 13, and Domingo Avila, 25—were killed when a grenade they found on the Nuevo Emperador rifle range exploded. This is not the first time that U.S. explosive devices have been left in areas visited by common people.

On 19 July 1988, at 2000, an A-37 aircraft dropped a bomb—which, fortunately, was only a smoke bomb—that fell only 200 meters away from an FDP women's facility. This is another example of the lack of U.S. security measures in the transportation of electric devices—I beg your pardon—explosive devices. This time it was a smoke bomb, but tomorrow it could be an explosive device.

U.S. newspapers charge that there have been sexual violations. We want to say that there have been sexual violations, but they have been carried out by the North Americans. On 4 June 1988, David Herin, a North American, was accused of raping a U.S. Army recruit whose last name was Ferrer. Herin, fearing that criminal charges would be filed against him and afraid that he would be executed, strangled her in Fort Clayton.

A few months prior to this incident, a 19-year-old Panamanian girl, Maria Eugenia Stevenson, with identification card No 8-528-1578, was attacked and raped by U.S. soldier Jerry Geralds, whose social security number is 110-64-9388.

In addition to these cases, we have evidence that warrants issued by Panamanian authorities to members of the U.S. Armed Forces have been held by U.S. personnel. Later they officially announce that the involved U.S. Armed Forces member is leaving the country, thus making a mockery of Panamanian justice. The case published today on the front page of the daily CRITICA is an example of this: Dr Marcos Ostrander advises that U.S. soldiers Robert Floyd, Anthony Pearson, and Richard Harris—who were accused of possession and consumption of drugs—were no longer members of the U.S. forces headquartered in Panama, thus once again making a mockery of Panamanian justice.

Relations between the two Armed Forces following the signing of the Panama Canal Treaties were characterized by mutual cooperation and respect. In the eyes of the FDP, that situation has changed. It is now the force of reason versus the force that the empire to the north wants to impose.

It is worth mentioning that following the departure of the U.S. Special Forces on 14 August and their replacement by another contingent, the U.S. Military Police have shown a willingness to resume normal behavior and talks in day-to-day dealings with our Military Police. Thank you.

[Lopez] Now, Lieutenant Colonel Aquilino Sieiro, Panamanian representative to the Combined Board—a binational organization created by the Torrijos-Carter treaties—will speak. Lt Col Sieiro and the board invite newsmen here to participate in a brief question-and-answer session following his statement.

[Sieiro] Good afternoon, members of the press. I am Lt Col Aquilino Sieiro, co-director of the Combined Board of the General Command of the Defense and Security Commission, an organization that functions within the framework of Article 4 of the Torrijos-Carter treaties. Its tasks include those of coordination, support, and control regarding everything having to do with military violations of the treaty, the mobilization of convoys, air and sea mobilizations, and joint Panamanian-U.S. training programs.

The FDP 5th Company is headquartered on the Pacific side, where we have had the most incidents since January of this year. Problems became more acute beginning in January until they reached the very tense level in March and April. As commander of that company, Capt Cortizo has given us a few examples of the many treaty violations and of abuses committed [by the United States]. These treaty violations and these abuses have been reported to my office and formal protests have been filed. We have not received any responses to these protests.

There is the case of two Cobra helicopter gunships, which have a great deal of fire power, that were flown to positions above the FDP's main headquarters. Much self-control was needed not to fall into that kind of trap. Had we fallen into the trap, the North Americans would have launched violent attacks against our country and our forces. When we protested, the response we received—sometimes we receive responses—was this: The helicopters were involved in familiarization flights, which they will continue to fly.

This is a threat. We issued another note in this regard, but we are still awaiting an answer to that note.

This is just another example. We have already listed many. We do not want to continue the game of trading accusations. As of today, this is no longer the position of the FDP. The Defense Forces, as the name specifies, are defensive. We defend ourselves. We are not going to attack anyone. We are a dignified and professional armed forces organization. We are composed of men and women who are highly professional, loyal, hard-working, and who are closely connected to the Panamanian people.

We are a small force, but we are effective and we work for the Panamanian people. They will not be able to force us to abandon our civic action activities, as they have insisted we do. Our civic action program is part of the FDP. It is the program that will keep us from fighting our own people in the mountains, as is happening in many countries we do not have to mention.

Capt Cortizo's statement referred to the period when the number of U.S. troops in this country was increased. The specific mission of those soldiers—Marines, special Military Police units, intelligence corps personnel, and other reinforcements totaling 3,000 men—was to invade Panama. It was during this period that the worst kind of arrogance was exhibited, that the most atrocious violations of the treaties took place, and the worst direct provocations against our troops occurred.

We kept calm and we maintained control of our units through direct dialogues. Colorful situations have taken place, but we are not going to go into that. We have been respectful, but because of the very vile charges that have been filed in the United States to discredit our forces, to discredit the Defense Forces as a whole, we have had to say a few things.

They have shown no respect. We believe in direct contacts, in the normal channels of communication established by the treaties. We would have continued to use these channels, even if there was silence on their end. We would have been satisfied to denounce the situation. But they brought an invasion force composed of young soldiers, of ill-prepared young people who were taken to the Howard [Air Force Base] airport, over which we have no control. Howard has become an international airport from where anyone leaves or arrives without Panama knowing about it—or having to know about it, as they see it. These young soldiers came to Panama with the idea that here in Panama we are killing each other, that we are attacking and destroying U.S. homes, raping U.S. women, and killing soldiers—that we are on the attack.

They are not to blame. This is the mentality instilled in them by propaganda. These boys are stationed at defense sites in the jungles of the canal area in this state of mind. The sudden change that a U.S. boy has to endure when moving from his normal environment to our environment—which is one of the most dense jungles in Latin America, a source of pride for us—has a strong psychological impact on the young soldier.

Boys staying in such camps for a long timne, let us say for 1 month, must be told what is happening; otherwise, they get nervous. They see no attack, they do not see the Vietnam-type conflict they were told about, and what may happen is what has already happened: They attacked themselves at Rodman because of their nervousness, because of the nature of their mission.

The [U.S. officials] have to have a justification for what happened in order to face the people and the mother and father of the soldier who died, a Puerto Rican. They have to say the man died while on a combat mission that did not exist. They put on a show and have been keeping it up to justify the presence of the 3,000 men here, in Panama, where we have not had any kind of combat.

When U.S. soldiers are on leave, their superiors have to give them free time, so they come to Panama and they go to all our fun centers. If you go to the causeway tomorrow you will see them there, you will see them everywhere.

If there is a NEW YORK TIMES reporter here, let him report this. This is valid not only for Panama City but for the interior as well. We invite correspondents to report the raid on Portobelo anounced on U.S. television. [sentence as heard] Let them report those things out of consideration for mothers, fathers, and relatives of the U.S. soldiers stationed here. The U.S. Government propaganda makes parents nervous. Let them refute this. They should say that the monster they portray is less dangerous than it appears. We are a small country, the smallest in the area. And yet our being a small country does not mean we are unworthy. We will defend ourselves.

U.S. soldiers and their relatives are not our enemies. The U.S. people are not enemies of the Panamanian people. It is the U.S. Government that has been waging economic, political, and military aggression against us. We cannot disregard our 84 years of good and bad relations just like that. All of us have very good U.S. friends.

So the U.S. Government should not try to confuse us. The U.S. Government has a political problem, which continues to worsen. They are trying to turn the people's attention away from a particular candidate by using Panama. They should refrain from this and from the serious charges leveled against us. We have been portrayed as savages, thugs, or Latin America's worst armed riffraff.

Our sin has been only that we are nationalists and demand that the treaties be complied with. They think they will renegotiate the bases in Panama as part of their 10-year plan; we are in a position so they will not succeed as long as we and our commander are here.

This is the situation. Howard Base is already inefficient and must be modernized immediately. But they cannot do that because they must renegotiate the treaties first. This is another thing that has to do with the current situation. We are very much concerned, particularly because the FDP's image cannot tolerate slanderous charges as presented by newspapers, television, and, perhaps, radio stations.

We at the Combined Defense Board understand that the U.S. Armed Forces must keep training, but they should not practice with us. Black Hawk helicopters flew low over Omar Torrijos Herrera Airport last night. What kind of flight was this? Helicopters hovered low as if to drop soldiers or cargo or just to scare us and then took off again. There was no coordination or any information exchanged with FDP. Panama's Civil Aeronautics Authority was not even notified. They should refrain from this out of consideration for civilian flight operations. This is just another incident.

We write down all the things that happen to us. We could even publish a book at the Combined Board. We want to make it clear that the FDP will guarantee the personal safety of U.S. citizens and their relatives in this country. They are welcome here. All the relatives of all U.S. citizens linked to the U.S. Army and on an official mission here can rest assured that we will not attack them, despite all this disinformation.

We will take care of them. We have never neglected the safety of U.S. personnel. No kidnappings have occurred here. No personnel carriers have been blown up. Despite the serious problems we have encountered in the streets, which even U.S. servicemen have participated in, no American has been murdered. Nothing of the sort has happened so far. No one has been killed in the streets, thank God. We have guaranteed and will continue to guarantee the safety of U.S. personnel in this country to prevent further misunderstandings.

We wanted to present the situation and the FDP's official position to the gentlemen of the press today. I am a member of, and represent, the FDP General Staff, and with me here are the officers who have direct daily contact with U.S. military personnel stationed in Panama. These officers are in constant contact with U.S. military personnel. We maintain constant contact and we do talk with them about the situation. Sometimes we understand the U.S. military's position: They have to follow the political orders that have been issued by the State or Defense Departments. They tell us that they have to follow these orders. This is reflected in the dialogue held by the U.S. and Panamanian guards at their posts. They say to each other: Look, we are not enemies, nor do we have to fight each other.

We have learned a lot with the difficult situation we have had to deal with, and it will make us a stronger FDP. We will be more deserving, more loyal, and more responsible in carrying out our missions in our country or in foreign countries. This can be noted because we have already carried out a UN peace mission in the Middle East. We can proudly say that our forces carried out the mission satisfactorily. If we are needed, we are willing, together with our men, to carry out any other peace mission in any foreign country, any peace mission, because we are a peaceful force. We are not criminals and we are not attacking anybody. We want this to be perfectly clear.

I want to thank you for your attention, and if you care to ask any questions, I would be happy to respond.

[Cupas] Tomas Cupas. I understand many of those servicemen and their relatives are living in Panama City because there is not enough housing on military bases. How can Col Sieiro explain the fact that so many people have moved to the bases? They have said that nearly 3,000 servicemen have moved to the bases. Where are they living, if there is no more room on the bases?

[Sieiro] Thank you for your question. Look, Tommy, that was reported within the past 2 days, if I am not mistaken, and it talked about an alleged exodus of military personnel from Panama City and Colon to the military bases because, according to them, there was a lack of security and because we were persecuting them and who knows what else.

There is some truth to this; listen to this very carefully. When U.S. soldiers and Panama Canal Commission members come to Panama with their relatives, they have to be housed in the designated areas within the canal area or on the bases that have been assigned for this purpose. They should have complied with this stipulation for the past 3 years. However, they asked the Panamanian Government [for an exemption] because they prefer to live in Panama City rather than on the

military bases or in some other [designated] area. Since their rent is paid by the Defense Department—it is paid by the U.S. Government—they began renting apartments, floors, homes, etc. throughout the entire Panama City area. What happened next? The bases or the Southern Command issued an order that all of them had to move back to the military bases and move out of the Panama City area. This is a result of the economic pressure and the latest actions or sanctions enacted by President Reagan, who refused to allow the U.S. Government to make cash payments to Panama. Therefore, to avoid doing this, they have ordered the families to move out because they will no longer pay the rent.

We believe another reason for this is that because they have forces here they have to justify [their presence] some way. That is why they sometimes publish reports saying things like: there were 5 incursions, we were attacked 20 times. All this is to justify their presence here to the State Department and the American people, who are asking: How long will my son be in Panama fighting Panamanians? They tell them they have fought 20 times, that they are in the jungle, and that they will continue fighting. This way they are justifying [their presence]. They are saying the additional military personnel must remain in Panama because we are persecuting U.S. civilians and servicemen in Panama. That is not true. Let us understand that this is caused by the economic sanctions enacted by President Reagan to justify the presence of the Army troops.

[Lopez] Another question.

[Graell] I am Antonio Graell Flores from LA REPUBLICA. Colonel, Capt Cortizo more or less gave us a list of provocations, and he gave us some examples of what was going on in the Pacific region. To take advantage of the presence here of the chief of the Atlantic region, I would like you to tell us if the same kind of actions have taken place in the Atlantic region as well. Could you give us some examples?

[Sieiro] The Atlantic area commander has his own particular problems in his area. But problems in that area seem to occur less frequently. The offensive seems to be greater in the Pacific area, in particular in the capital city area. Relations with U.S. personnel in the Atlantic area are much better. The one or two incidents that have occurred have been settled. In addition, a helicopter hovered above the building lodging our garrison in old Fort Gulick, now Fort Espinar, for several minutes, as if to see what would happen. Should a shot have been fired by our men by accident, they could have said they were being attacked.

But this is as far as it has gone. They have focused their attention on the Pacific area. This is where their major interest lies because of the greater population and the greater newspaper attention on this area.

[Reporter] If I have understood correctly, the number of incidents decreased on 14 August because a number of U.S. troops left the country. However, THE NEW YORK TIMES campaign started after that date. How do you view this apparent contradiction?

[Sieiro] We think this is indeed a contradiction. But, despite political pressure and disinformation, our relations with U.S. troops stationed in Panama are at an acceptable level. We mentioned 14 August because it was then that the 65th Military Police Battalion left Panama. The members of this battalion were the most aggressive and arrogant. They were very troublesome, even among themselves. They quarreled and many of them suffered broken bones. We did not hurt them. They hurt themselves.

We have been thinking that, after the situation returns to normal and they lose control of the political situation, perhaps they will begin to release this kind of slanderous disinformation to make us angry and end our good relations with servicemen. But our relations with soldiers are very good at present, particularly at the military police level.

[Mendez] Radames Mendez of the Dominican Republic for EL NACIONAL DE AHORA. The United States invaded the Dominican Republic with more than 42,000 Marines in 1965. More than 5,000 Dominicans were killed as the result of this military intervention. The intervention was justified at the time by saying it was to save the lives of U.S. citizens residing in or passing through the Dominican Republic. But not a single U.S. citizen had been attacked up to and including 28 April 1965. Their argument at that time was similar to the one being used now. This is why we ask: Do you people believe this excuse is being used to prepare for, and justify to the world, direct military intervention in Panama, as occurred in the Dominican Republic?

[Sieiro] Definitely so. This is our main fear, and that is why we are here today. One of the reasons for coming here to report all these incidents... [changes thought] Major Lopez Grimaldo mentioned what happened in the Dominican Republic at the beginning of the news conference. We are aware of history. We have seen and read about what happened in the Dominican Republic that led to so many Dominican citizens being killed.

Here the pattern is the same. We do not say that the United States is going to do the same thing in Panama. We hope not—it is the last thing we want. But we do note that the same characteristics and attitudes are present. Disinformation: The U.S. citizens living in Panama are in danger; we are attacking them; we are raping them; we are doing all sorts of horrible things to them. In this way they prepare public opinion, especially U.S. public opinion. The United States is not interested in the general public opinion of other countries. They are only interested in U.S. public opinion and that is why they are

sending this message to the U.S. public, to U.S. citizens, to the parents of the soldiers who are here. They want to create the image that Panama is Vietnam and they have done so.

U.S. citizens are concerned about the situation here because they have a Vietnam psychosis and they believe in Rambo. They have created this illusion. They have created a war scenario that does not exist. We are shouting the truth at all levels and all over the world. Thank God we have the example of a neighboring country that has suffered the same problem, and we have learned from its experience. We have learned from the Dominican Republic's unfortunate experience. We do not want the same thing to happen to us and that is why we are seeking a dialogue. We want to say that we are a small country. We are not fighting anybody, but we are not going to be beaten so easily.

[Zamora] Alfonso Zamora of DPA, the FRG news agency. Mr Sosa, a former high UNADE [National Democratic Union] official, held a news conference in the United States yesterday. He said that the FDP was accepting Cuban troops in its ranks and that the Dignity Battalions were organized by Nicaraguans. I would like to know the FDP's official reaction to these statements.

[Sieiro] Zamora, who did you say gave this news conference?

[Zamora] Sir, it was Sosa, who was a top UNADE official in the past administration.

[Sieiro] Mr Sosa, you say. The one who is over there? [laughter] The gringos' ambassador? Well, they... [changes thought] A military corps such as ours has always been quite formal about the use of the uniform. We have never allowed our men to grow moustaches—like yours, Zamora—or beards. The soldiers' personal appearance is of great importance in our corps. Some time ago, however, it was decided that our men would be allowed to grow moustaches. Our decision caused quite a stir, and they said that the men with moustaches were Cubans. They cannot get rid of their paranoia about the bearded Castro, just as they cannot make their Vietnam psychosis disappear. This is the explanation we can give you. Our troops are Panamanians. We are here confronting our problems and the world knows this. We are alone. They are the ones who threaten us, but we will confront their threats alone. Nobody is going to come and help us out, and we know this perfectly well.

[Lopez] Two more questions.

[Fuentes] Agustin Fuentes from REUTER. I would like you to clarify two matters: Did the U.S. helicopters that approached the Omar Torrijos Airport and Fort Gulick come from the Canal Zone, or did they violate Panamanian airspace? The U.S. newspapers quoted Southern Command sources. Do you know who these sources are? Also, have U.S. military personnel reported this to your office?

[Sieiro] Have they reported what?

[Fuentes] Have they reported the charges made by the U.S. newspapers?

[Sieiro] They have not reported them at all. We have asked the U.S. military officers here—I am answering your second question—to explain the attacks that are mentioned in these newspapers, and they tell us that they have not reported anything. We do not know who the sources of these reports are. We do not know if the information was provided by the Southern Command, or who is responsible for the reports that appeared in the United States. No one has claimed responsibility for having supplied the information. The Southern Command covers all Latin America.

[Fuentes] [Question indistinct]

[Sieiro] That is correct. The Combined Board's procedures are that they have to report their complaints to us. They have to tell us: Look, one of your soldiers stuck out his tongue at a U.S. citizen. I then would scold the soldier, give him a written admonishment, or punish him by cutting out his tongue. I am being quite informal here.

Regarding the helicopter question, the United States violates our airspace more than any other area in the region, including the Pacific and the Caribbean. They do not respect—nor will they respect, as they have told us—Panamanian airspace. Their helicopters fly all over our country. They send A-37 attack jets—the A-37 is the one called Dragonfly and is used for training. It is a fully equipped and armed aircraft. Lately they have been using A-7 attack jets. They have a longer range and are also attack jets. They also fly over our territory with C-130 planes and with all the planes they have available.

Their planes have caused two international incidents that are going to be reported to the ICAO [International Civil Aviation Organization]. One involved an Eastern passenger plane that reported that a U.S. military plane had overflown and endangered it. The other is a report from a plane that was coming from Colombia; it occurred recently.

I have recent information that they also toyed with that aircraft. This does not include our aircraft, as we are somewhat accustomed to it, but it is dangerous that they do this to us. When they intercept one of our Air Force planes, the twin-engine Aviocar, they have the Dragonfly aircraft overfly them and threaten to attack them. This happens frequently. Those helicopters appear as they please out of nowhere at any moment. [The Panamanian

planes] have no warning. That is very dangerous, especially since it involves an international airport such as Omar Torrijos Airport. They should not toy with those landing strips at any time.

They visit San Blas constantly and overfly San Blas with their aircraft and helicopters and land there. When someone gets close to the helicopter to ask what they want, they leave. It is a very embarrassing and very dangerous situation. They use to coordinate this with us until they hardened their position. They would inform us that they were going to overfly a certain area; we had good coordination. Lately they are not doing this, as if they do not want to respect us.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Sieiro] [chuckling] I appreciate it very much.

[Lopez] Are there any other questions? There are two more questions.

[Clarete] Andres Clarete, ACAN-EFE. Colonel, the person in charge of the Dignity Battalions recently told our agency that those battalions were on semi-alert as a result of what he termed strange U.S. troop movements and also as a result of the presence of some U.S. warships. I would like to know if you can confirm such strange movements and the presence of warships. Also, has the FDP been on alert or semi-alert as a result of this?

[Sieiro] Look, yesterday and the day before nuclear submarines escorted by three Puma—I believe—helicopters transited the canal. Several destroyers have passed through the canal. But at this moment we are keeping a watch on the warships that passed through to see where they are going. Once they reach the open seas, we will no longer be concerned. There has not been any alert in that respect. We know there are maneuvers being carried out, and this does not represent a state of alert. The Dignity Battalions have no cause to be on alert either. They are at a normal state of readiness. They are a group that keeps busy. It is good that they also invent their self-alert. They are very responsible. We have to allow them a statement now and then.

[Clarete] Colonel, I would like to refer to something that one of the former ACAN-EFE reporters here in Panama told me to give you an idea of the magnitude of the disinformation—in this specific case of THE NEW YORK TIMES, which was the one that rang the first bell of disinformation that caused us to meet with you. An ACAN-EFE correspondent approached three ranking Southern Command officers last Sunday on the same day that newswoman Elaine Sciolino of THE NEW YORK TIMES cited the Southern Command. And this ACAN-EFE correspondent, who is alive—I do not know if he is present here, and in fact I could not name him if I had to—told me that the three ranking officers—he did not tell me that it was General [Frederick] Woerner [commander of the U.S. Southern Command]—but he told me that three ranking officers had told him that those statements were not made in that manner and that the tone of THE NEW YORK TIMES report was totally rash and scandalous. He said that they did admit there had been some regular problems—as there are in all parts of the world, especially in those countries where foreign forces are based—but that the intention of the Southern Command had never been to cause a scandal, as the Sunday NEW YORK TIMES report stated. This is so that you can see how the disinformation is manipulated in this specific case of aggression.

[Lopez] Are there any other questions? Thank you, gentlemen.

Press Official Terms Harassment Charges 'False'

PA2608160788 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Nils Castro, general coordinator of Panama's National Information Service [SNI], has described as preposterous and totally false the charges that Panamanian military men harass U.S. civilians living in our capital. Castro said the charges are obviously intended to sell to the U.S. public the idea that their civilian compatriots are being attacked abroad and that armed action to rescue them is thus necessary and warranted.

Castro asserted that the statements by the State Department spokesperson in this connection were intended to suggest that no one should doubt the U.S. ability to defend its nationals.

Castro ended his statements to PANAPRESS by noting that thousands of U.S. citizens go about our cities' streets, bask in the sun on our beaches, and enjoy themselves at our tourist sites without worry.

Delvalle Arrives in Miami on U.S. Military Plane

PA2808022488 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0131 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Miami, 27 Aug (REUTER)—Ousted Panamanian President Eric Delvalle, who has been in hiding for 6 months, arrived in Miami aboard a U.S. military aircraft for what has been described as a personal visit.

According to Delvalle's representative in the United States, Juan Sosa, the former president was accompanied by his wife, and he will return to Panama within the next few days.

This afternoon the former president—who has been in hiding in Panama since he was removed from office on 26 February by the Legislative Assembly, which is loyal to General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the Panama Defense Forces—arrived at the airport in Miami and then went by car to an unknown location.

In statements made over the telephone from Washington, Sosa denied that the former president would remain in the United States, and he said that Delvalle "is committed to the establishment of democracy in Panama." He also explained that the visit was of a personal nature.

The Panamanian Government has claimed that Delvalle is under U.S. protection in Panama, but this charge has been denied by the Reagan administration. His arrival in this city aboard a U.S. military aircraft is considered by Panamanian sources to be a possible detonator of another bitter controversy between Panama and the United States.

Delvalle, who underwent bypass surgery 12 years ago, periodically returns to the United States for medical checkups. Sosa pointed out, however, that the current visit has nothing to do with his health.

Sosa: Government 'Isolated,' Country 'Cubanized'
PA2608190588 Panama City Radio Alegre in Spanish 1715 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Washington—Six months after General Manuel Antonio Noriega overthrew the government of Eric Arturo Delvalle, the military leader is weaker and has Cubanized Panama to save his own ship from sinking, said Juan Sosa, Delvalle's representative to the United States.

Sosa, the Panamanian ambassador representing Eric Arturo Delvalle, whom the U.S. Government recognizes as the only legitimate Panamanian president, said at a news conference that Noriega's regime has spectacularly deteriorated in the past few weeks and is now more economically, diplomatically, and politically isolated.

Overthrowing a dictatorship is a process; it does not happen overnight. It may take days, weeks, or months, but it will fall, Sosa stressed.

Sosa said Noriega, to counter his isolation, has received $20 million in aid from Libya, permitted the integration of Cuban troops into the Defense Forces, allowed the presence of members of Nicaraguan intelligence, and supported the Colombian M-19 guerrillas.

Noriega Presents Medal to Libyan Envoy
LD2808195888 Tripoli JANA in English 1422 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Panama, Hanibal [August] 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the commander of the Army in Panama, lauded the pioneering role being played by the leader of the revolution Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in leading international revolution aganst domination and colonialism the world over.

General Noriega declared, when he delivered the fine medal of the Panamanian Army to the secretary of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Panama, 'It is my pleasure to present this fine medal to the leader of the revolution Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the Libyan Arab people whom we admire and respect for their stand on our side and supporting us in the difficult events we faced.

General Noriega added, 'Please convey to leader Al-Qadhdhafi our greetings, admiration and respect for him and his firm stances and inform him that the Green Book is available here in Panama.

Present at the ceremony were General Noriega and a number of senior commanders of the Panamanian National Army.

Issuance of Alternative Currencies Proposed
PA2808205888 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2012 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Panama City, 28 Aug (DPA)—Today the Panamanian National Political Consultation and Advisory Commission [Comision Nacional de Consulta y Asesoria Politica] submitted to the government of Manuel Solis Palma a plan for the issuance of new negotiable assets (currency, checks, bonds) as a means of overcoming the currency shortage in the country. The shortage is caused by the measures imposed by the United States.

As Oscar Navarro, a member of that executive branch commission, told DPA: "The plan consists of temporarily issuing $50 million in checks in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100; minting $20 million worth of coins; and issuing and selling short-term redeemable bonds on the Arab and European markets."

"The checks will be backed not only by the Panamanian funds that are frozen in the United States, but also by the unpaid Panama Canal annuities, as well as by taxes retained by U.S. companies in Panama," Navarro said.

Navarro added that this plan will help the Panamanian economy to overcome the problem of the lack of credit that is hindering the normal course of business activities in the country, without destabilizing the Panamanian banking system, because, Navarro said, at no time will the dollar be replaced as legal tender in Panama.

Economic Woes Creating 'Underdeveloped Country'
PA2808194088 Panama City Radio Alegre in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Economic indicators confirm that Panama is turning into an underdeveloped country, a phrase often used by economists, officials, and observers. Business

activity dropped 50 percent during the past year and the same thing occurred to government revenue. Unemployment has doubled, the servicing of the foreign debt has been suspended, bank deposits have decreased by two-thirds, and newspapers daily publish dozens of announcements of companies going out of business.

Chamber of Commerce leaders have reported that as a result of the gravest political and economic crisis in Panama's history, 72 percent of businesses saw their sales drop 50 percent and 43 percent suffered a drop of more than 75 percent when March and April 1987 figures are compared with those of March and April 1988.

Argentina

Caputo on Regaining Falkland Islands

PY2708030488 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Today Foreign Minister Dante Caputo said the Malvinas Islands are now closer to Argentine possession because of the Argentine people's maturity.

He added: Compared to the country's image in 1982, withdrawn and isolated, in contrast with a victorious United Kingdom, we now have an image of full participation in the international community.

Caputo, who arrived this afternoon in Mendoza Province to lecture on foreign policy, said he does not deny the difficulty of recovering the islands, but he asserted that if the Argentine people are consistent and have patience they will regain the them.

Finance Secretary Returns From Japan

PY2608145388 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2100 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Aug (NA)—Today Finance Secretary Mario Brodersohn returned to Buenos Aires after a 6-day visit to Japan where he negotiated a $400-million loan for Argentina.

Brodersohn arrived at 1410 at Ezeiza Airport on a flight from Panama and got in a car waiting for him near the runway. He thereby avoided contacts with reporters.

It is not known whether his decision to avoid the press is just part of his regular aversion to answering reporters' questions or whether the results of his mission prevent him from commenting.

However, it is known that the finance secretary held talks with economic authorities of the Japanese Government and Eximbank representatives.

His objective was to obtain credits to finance current Argentine projects.

Communist Party Proposes Leftist Alliance

PY2608035288 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Aug (NA)—The Communist Party [PC] has proposed that leftist forces form an alliance for the upcoming elections. The proposal is based on a program of inviting "all interested parties to join this front voluntarily" in September. The proposal calls for the election of common candidates, the formation of a program in October, and the proclamation of candidates in November.

The proposal was made public during a news conference in which the principal component of the Broad Liberation Front (FRAL) disclosed the method for implementing the leftist front with other political parties, such as the Movement Toward Socialism, the Everyone for the Fatherland Movement, the National Commission in Favor of Attorney Ricardo Molinas for presidential candidate, and the "Independent Fighters for Social and Intellectual Rights."

During the news conference, PC Deputy Secretary General Patricio Echegaray explained that the invitation to "join voluntarily" the front in September is designed to "call on political creativity" and means "going out to contact the leftist sector and explore the paths for the participation of those sectors most willing to contribute to this alliance."

Regarding the possible FRAL candidates, leader Eduardo Sigal stated at the PC headquarters, 1037 Entre Rios Street, that former Intransigent Lisandro Vialle, Echegaray, Nestor Vicente, and Carlos Vicente (29 May Liberation Movement) will be some of those running. The candidates will be elected according to the method that future members of the alliance deem most appropriate.

The election of common candidates will be carried out in October following one of the four proposals made by the PC: through direct elections without previous registration of voters; through assemblies; by subjecting tickets jointly agreed upon by the party members to a plebiscite; or through a combination of two or more of the above proposals.

The PC hopes to carry out "thousands of assemblies throughout the country so that the people and their federations may contribute a program of immediate solutions at a local and regional level" during the month of October.

The PC seeks to end with a programatic congress of the alliance, from which all proposals to be upheld by the common candidates will stem. These proposals will be a condensation of a program containing the leftists' historical guidelines, such as those of Huerta Grande [not further identified], the guidelines of the General Confederation of Labor, as well as the program's of the People's Front, the FRAL, and others.

The candidates will be proclaimed and the electoral campaign started in November.

'Right-Wing Terrorist' Cell Broken Up

PY2608160588 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2056 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 25 Aug (TELAM)—Chief of Federal Police Juan Pirker reported that the institution he commands has broken up an alleged right-wing terrorist cell, arrested seven individuals—two are still at large—and seized sophisticated weapons and a lot of nazi-fascist literature.

The group constitutes a branch of the cell discovered in April shortly after the group detonated a series of bombs to commemorate the 1st anniversary of the Holy Week military uprising. This group is supposedly commanded by former Lieutenant Colonel Arturo Gonzalez Naya, who has remained at large since the Monte Caseros incident.

Pirker held a news conference at his central police department office. He said the police investigation began after two important raids on the night of the 18th and early morning of the 19th of April concluded with the arrest of six individuals. On that occasion, Carlos Ernesto Indio Castillo and Luciano Lucho Gauzzaroni escaped. They are still at large.

Pirker said this investigation led police to carry out a series of raids in the capital (Pirker did not give details on these raids). The operations ended with the arrest of Eduardo Daniel Dacharry, Luis Alfredo Zarattini, Jorge Oscar Francisco Pomponi, Alberto Jose Coste, Ruben Hector Escobar, Julio Nicolas Ortiz, and Carmelo Andres Vanelli.

On these occasions, police seized sawed-off shotguns, a Winchester rifle, 14 Spanish made MK-5 grenades, a trotyl cake, primers, fuses, an anti-tank missile, a Papi brand rocket, telephone equipment with a recorder, Army communications equipment, two bullet-proof jackets, pistols with silencers, different caliber silencers, two rubber masks (including one of a gorilla and one of an old man), forged documents (including U.S. passports and Congress security identification), car sirens, and printing equipment. [passage omitted]

Pirker said the highly sophisticated weapons were not intended for use during common criminal activities. The police chief added that the individuals arrested by the police were all civilians, that none of the men were retired Armed Forces or security personnel, and that some of them had police records for common crimes. [passage omitted]

According to the organization's chart, the fugitives Castillo and Guazzaroni command the cell that include the seven people in custody and the other two that remain at large. Former Lt Col Gonzalez Naya was not mentioned during the news conference. Last April Pirker said Gonzalez was the cell leader. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Official Reports 'No Guerrilla Groups' in Area

PY2508154288 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Interior Minister Under Secretary Eduardo Perez Beltran, who recently carried out an inspection of the area near the Real Mountain Range, has stated that there are no guerrilla groups operating in Bolivian territory. In view of reports made by tourist guides who visited the area, Perez Beltran visited the area near the (Choroco) and Chachacomani hills but found no evidence of guerrillas; therefore, the reports are false.

The tourist guides' report stated that a group of foreign tourists were overpowered by a group of armed civilians who stole important items from the tourists.

Perez Beltran said there is no evidence of armed civilian groups in Bolivian territory. He added that the reports submitted by the tourist guides were absolutely false and that preliminary investigations showed that the tourists had talked to local settlers.

He said that a U.S. citizen, a Canadian, and five French citizens have returned to La Paz after attempting to climb the mountains in the region. Perez Beltran added that in this region of the country, peasants carry guns for hunting small game, which they are authorized to do in view of the condition of the area they inhabit.

The investigation was carried out by members of the Interior Ministry Intelligence Department with the support of the Armed Forces.

Reports 'Confusing'

PY2708152788 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Excerpt] According to a newspaper report published today, the presence of an irregular armed group in Bolivia was reportedly confirmed yesterday.

A group of foreign mountaineers here to climb Andean mountain peaks was detained by an irregular armed group on 22 August. According to preliminary reports, guerrillas with links to the Shining Path terrorist group were responsible for the acts.

However, the reports were confusing because authorities did not specify whether the armed group was made up of peasants or terrorist group members.

The newspaper was able to confirm that a non-peasant armed group equipped with modern weapons and a portable communications system detained the foreign mountaineers on the afternoon of 22 August, east of Achacachi. The mountaineers were on their way from their camp to an Andean peak near Sorata.

One of the foreign group members, Victor Valen, a Toronto banker and experienced mountain climber, reported that his group was intercepted by surprise at 1800 by a 16-member civilian group on location between (Potapatani) hill and the Chachacomani River, 4,800 metres above sea level.

The irregular armed group wore summer clothing and was commanded by a tall, hooded man. The leader seemed to come from a tropical region. According to Valen, the armed group scared the foreigners by firing shots into the air.

Once the foreigners was overpowered, the armed group forced them to show their belongings. Valen's passport and some of his belongings were confiscated. [passage omitted]

Leftist Weekly Director Released on Bail

PY2808023688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2330 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Excerpt] La Paz, 27 Aug (EFE)—Antonio Peredo Leigue, director of the leftist weekly AQUI, was released on bail in recent hours after serving 26 days at the San Pedro prison and after paying a 5,000 Bolivianos bond (approximately $2,080).

Peredo Leigue was arrested on 1 August for having published in his weekly a report harshly criticizing the collection of "extra" salaries from foreign organizations by government officials since 1986.

Peredo Leigue described as "outrageous" the ruling of the First Appellate Criminal Court increasing the bond from 500 to 5,000 Bolivianos for his release. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Nobrega: Funds Not Available for Pay Adjustment

PY2708002688 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Today Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega addressed more than 300 officers at the Army General Staff College in Urca neighborhood, Rio de Janeiro, who are taking a 2-year training course that will give them the possibility of becoming generals.

After the talk, Minister Nobrega said that the federal government does not have the necessary funds to pay public servants in September the price reference unit [URP] for the month of May.

The minister declined to say when the URP for the month of May would be paid. [passage omitted]

Nobrega also said that the inflation rate for the month of August should amount to 20.6 percent, thus confirming the prediction made by Joao Batista de Abreu, chief of the Secretariat of Planning. Nobrega refused to talk specifically about the prospects for inflation in September, but he believes it will remain about the same as in August. [passage omitted]

Assembly Approves Constitution Articles

On Government Salaries

PY2508165288 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Aug 88 p 3

[Text] Brasilia—Yesterday the Constituent Assembly approved a disposition to prevent "marajas" [people who hold several jobs and earn more than one salary] from working in public administration posts. This disposition states that public employees cannot earn more than members of the National Congress, members of the federal Supreme Court or state Supreme Courts, or, at the municipal level, earn more than the prefect. The Constituent Assembly also approved the system of popular initiatives to submit draft bills to municipal councils for which signatures of 5 percent of the local electorate will suffice.

According to Article 38, Paragraph 12, of the new constitution, salaries in the legislative and judicial branches will be lower than those at the executive branch. This will be implemented from the promulgation of the constitution. Paragraph 11 of Article 38 establishes that the law will determine the ceiling of salaries and the relation between grades. The salaries of members of the three branches of government will be taken as basis for this assessment.

The constitution also forbids the linking or matching of public servants salaries. [sentence as published] The law will guarantee that all members of the public administration, or members of the three branches of government, received equal pay for similar or comparable jobs within the public administration.

The constitution also guarantees full retirement benefits for public servants who are left disabled as a consequence of an accident during service, or develop a serious illness, or contagious and incurable disease, or become incapacitated by the performance of his profession. This will also be specified by the law.

Judicial Branch Changes

PY2708023188 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Aug 88 p-1

[Text] Yesterday the Constituent Assembly approved amendments that will mean an in-depth restructuring of the judicial branch. The Federal Supreme court [Supremo Tribunal Federal—STF] will operate as a constitutional court that will adjudicate cases involving high-ranking federal officials. The Federal Appellate Court will be eliminated and will be replaced by the Superior Court [Superior Tribunal de Justicia—STJ], which will operate as the highest regular court, while Regional Federal Courts [Tribunais Regionais Federais—TFR's] will be created to operate as review courts in the states with enough cases to be heard. Courts to

adjudicate minor cases may be created. These courts will hear minor civil cases and criminal violations. The decisions by these courts may not be appealed.

On Armed Forces Role

PY2908001088 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Aug 88 p A-5

[Text] Brasilia—Yesterday the Constituent Assembly confirmed the text of the draft constitution on the role of the Armed Forces that had been approved during the first round of voting. The document states that the Armed Forces are to guarantee "law and order" at the request of any of the three branches of government (executive, legislative, or judicial). The decision making habeas corpus inapplicable in cases of military disciplinary punishment within the Armed Forces was also maintained when representatives rejected an amendment submitted by Deputy Paulo Ramos (PMN [National Mobilization Party]—Rio de Janeiro] that attempted to change this provision.

The leaders of the different blocs also agreed to approve a provision establishing that people drafted into military service can object in times of peace and instead participate in "essentially military activities" as "conscientious objectors." These people will be assigned by the Armed Forces to alternative services. The constitution will accept as "conscientious objectors" those whose objections "derive from religious, philosophical, or political convictions."

The new constitution introduces the concept that labor justice [justicia do trabalho] will regulate labor relations. An attempt to overrule this constitutional provision submitted by Senator Albano Franco (PMDB—Sergipe) was rejected by 290 votes to 67, with 13 abstentions.

The new role of the Federal Police [PF] was also approved. The new text determines that the PF will "prevent and suppress the illicit traffic of drugs and similar activities and will intervene to combat contraband, criminal activity, and economic crimes, independently of investigations that other public organizations might launch within their respective areas. [no closing quotation mark as published]

The "flexibility" of the Constituent Assembly leadership in conducting the voting allowed representatives to confirm that positions at the Federal Court of Audits [Tribunal de Contas da Uniao—TCU] will be for life. The issue had already been voted on by the Constituent Assembly on 24 August, when members rejected several amendments that intended to change the 6-year term (without reelection) for the position, as was approved by the first round of voting.

Yesterday Constituent Assembly members presented an amendment identical to the ones already rejected. The explanation of the deadlock varied. "There was a compromise proposal that allowed the approval of the for-life issue," PMDB leader Nelson Jobim (Rio de Janeiro) said. Deputy Inocencio de Oliveira (PFL—Pernambuco State) said "the leadership of the party blocs agreed to allow a new vote, because there was no quorum in previous votes."

According to Senator Cid Saboia Carvalho (PMDB—Ceara State), his amendment establishing the position for life had to be voted on because the amendments rejected on 24 August were fused in a single proposal covering a broader field than his. However, Deputy Euclides Scalco (Brazilian Social Democratic Party—Parana State) said the attitude of the Constituent Assembly leadership on this issue is contrary to all previous proceedings adopted by the Assembly. The Constituent Assembly finally approved the concept of position for life for the Federal Court of Audits amid rumors of pressure from the courts and Planalto Palace.

After the constitution is promulgated, congressional blocs such as the Centrist [Centrao] ("conservative" group that is above party affiliations) will have a proportional representation in all Chamber of Deputies and Senate committees.

Clause 'Satisfies' Military

PY2908005388 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Aug 88 p A-5

[Text] Brasilia—According to Air Force Colonel Pedro Josino, congressional adviser to Aeronautics Minister Octavio Moreira Lima, the Constituent Assembly decision confirming that one of the Armed Forces' attributions includes the defense of law and order satisfies the Armed Forces.

Pedro Josino, who yesterday followed the voting of the Constituent Assembly on the matter, said the text that was approved is "balanced and good for the entire society."

Deputy Jose Genoino (Sao Paulo), PT vice president and author of one of the three amendments that attempted to remove this attribution from the text of the constitution, believes the approval of such an attribution only "maintains the military tutelage over civilian power, something that has predominated in Brazilian constitutions since 1891."

Chile

Paper: Pinochet 'Could' Resign Army Command

PY2608153688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1455 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Santiago, 26 Aug (EFE)—Today's issue of the opposition newspaper "FORTIN MAPOCHO" states that President Augusto Pinochet "could resign" as Army commander in chief on 30 August.

The newspaper, citing "sources linked to the Armed Forces," adds that Pinochet's resignation as commander in chief of the Armed Forces is due to the fact that "he has already decided to accept the nomination for the Presidency without a uniform in the upcoming plebiscite."

The newspaper adds that General Santiago Sinclair would assume the post of commander in chief. Sinclair currently is the Army's second in command. The daily adds that "the generals have already had a luncheon to bid farewell to Pinochet."

According to "FORTIN MAPOCHO" the president will announce his decision on 30 August.

According to what has been announced by the Armed Forces commanders, at noon on 30 August the commanders in chief (including Pinochet) and the Carabineros director will meet to designate the official plebiscite candidate to decide the presidential succession for the 1989-97 term.

That same day the commanders will also announce the day of the plebiscite, which, according to the local media, has been set for the first week in October.

Some government sectors have requested the commanders choose Pinochet as the candidate and the opposition believes this to be the most likely possibility. The opposition is calling on Chileans to support the no vote.

Union Leader Warns of Violence on 30 Aug

PY2608155288 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Opposition sectors and extremist movements are preparing for violent actions, including bombings and attacks on private property, for 30 August when the name of the plebiscite candidate will be announced. This was stated by copper workers union leader Guillermo Medina, who said that according to information he has and what has been published in the press, it is easy to see that such violent actions have been planned.

Medina also said that the government decision to lift the states of exception is positive, although it will benefit a vociferous minority. Medina said that 70 percent of the silent majority is not concerned about living under states of exception because they are working people concerned only with their labor activities.

Right To Assemble, Publish Reestablished

PY2608144988 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] The situation of exiled Chileans remains unchanged, not withstanding the publication of the decrees which lifted the state of emergency and the state of internal disturbance, an Interior Ministry source has reported. Those in internal exile, the source added, may return. However, those whose internal exile was decreed by the Supreme Court must serve their entire sentence.

The Interior Ministry source said that the only restriction on the threat to domestic order was that special permission for new publications was required. Now, any citizen is able to found, edit, an circulate any publication. Such activity was restricted by temporary Article No 24.

The state of emergency restricted the right to assemble. This right has been reestablished with the publication of the new decree lifting the state of emergency.

However, the source said, the Interior Ministry's 1983 supreme decree is still in effect. This decree allows administrative authorities, mayors, and governors to deny permission to hold rallies in certain places.

Assembly Rights Explained

PY2708184988 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] The lifting of the states of exception declared by the government within constitutional regulations is valid as of today. Therefore, the right to assemble established by the Constitution will be regulated according to an article issued on 15 September 1983 which, in part, establishes the following:

All people have the right to assemble peacefully, without previously requesting permission or carrying weapons, but they must obey the general rules set by the police.

The article also states that there are specific regulations for holding meetings or assemblies in squares, streets, and other public places.

One of these regulations establishes that the organizers must report their intention to hold a meeting to their local mayor or governor. The local authority is entitled not to grant permission for meetings or marches on streets of heavy traffic or on streets that cross heavy traffic areas.

If a meeting violating these regulations is held, it can be dissolved by the forces of order and of public security.

The government considers that armed meetings are those in which the participants carry sticks, canes, irons, tools, metal bars, chains, or any other similar object.

The article also states that mayors and governors are entitled to issue resolutions establishing the streets and places where public meetings will not be allowed.

Further on Meetings

PY2708210988 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Report by Mario Reynes from Macul municipal hall]

[Text] According to Decree No 1086/86, it is not necessary to ask for permission to hold public meetings; however, meetings must be reported to the local authorities at least 48 hours before they take place. This was stated in Macul district by Major General Sergio Badiola, intendant of the metropolitan region.

Badiola said now that the states of exception have been lifted, it is no longer necessary to ask for permission to hold public meetings or assemblies. However, protocol must be followed and a meeting must be reported at least 48 hours before it takes place.

[Begin Badiola recording] [Words indistinct] according to Article 1, those who wish to assemble may do so in public without prior authorization, as long as these meetings are held without arms. This affects meetings in general, whether in closed or open spaces.

However, when these meetings are organized in squares, streets, or other public places, certain requirements must be complied with. The organizers must report their plans to the local authorities at least 48 hours before the meeting takes place.

If this regulation is not complied with, the forces of order can dissolve any meeting that has not been reported within the established terms and requisites. [end recording]

Gen Badiola reiterated that despite the fact that the law establishes that no prior authorization is needed to hold a meeting, it is essential to first comply with specific requisites. Once all regulations are complied with, the intendant or governor will inform the meeting organizers of the terms and conditions under which they can hold their meeting.

Decree Lifting States of Exception Published

PY2708181888 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Today the Interior Ministry decrees lifting the state of emergency and the state of threat to domestic order have been published in the official gazette. The two decrees, which have been signed by the president of the Republic and the interior minister, consist of a single article which states:

The state of emergency declared on the national territory by the Interior Ministry Decree No 782/88 is no longer in effect as of the date of publication of this decree in the official gazette.

Survey Indicates Majority Supports No Vote

PY2908031488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1856 GMT 28 Aug 88

[All figures as received]

[Text] Santiago, 28 Aug (EFE)—Today, according to a survey published in Santiago, 62.8 percent of those questioned will support the no vote and 37.2 percent support the yes vote in the upcoming plebiscite that will decide the presidential succession in Chile.

The survey conducted in July by the private organization "Geminis" in Santiago, where most electors are concentrated, indicates that only 12.3 percent are undecided.

At noon on 30 August, the commanders in chief of the Armed Forces—including General Pinochet—and the Carabineros director will meet to designate the plebiscite candidate.

The date of the plebiscite will be announced during the ceremony to designate the candidate. The local media agree that the commanders have already decided to hold the referendum during the first week of October.

The survey also says that 40.2 percent of those questioned said they preferred "a civilian of the center" as candidate, 18.4 percent preferred "a civilian of the right," 11.5 percent preferred "a civilian of the left," and 9.8 percent preferred "another member of the Armed Forces."

Rural Support for Government

PY2608161088 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] 41 percent of the Chilean population thinks that President Pinochet will win the plebiscite and 46.1 percent think that the plebiscite will be a totally clean and open process. These numbers were obtained by the Current Reality Studies Center [Centro de Estudios de la Realidad Contemporanea—CERC] which is dependent on the Christian Humanist Academy.

The results of the poll reveal strong support for the government in small towns, which past governments had not taken into consideration. In such small towns, 46.6 percent of the people will vote yes.

Plebiscite Regional Military Chiefs Appointed

PY2608191588 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] According to a decree published in the official gazette today, the area military chiefs and deputy chiefs for the regions, provinces, and districts have been appointed. They have been appointed to their posts in keeping with the government's duty to safeguard public order and calm during the upcoming plebiscite.

The main appointments are: Metropolitan Region and San Antonio Province chief: Brigadier General (Jorge Sinque Queiroz); deputy chief: Brigadier Jaime Gonzalez Vergara. Fifth Region, except for Valparaiso Island, San Antonio, and Easter Island chief: Colonel (Jorge Silva Soter); deputy chief: Colonel Mario Emiliano Alvarado Verdugo. Valparaiso and Easter Island Provinces chief: Vice Admiral Fernando Navajas Irigoyen; deputy chief: Vice Admiral Jorge Sepulveda Ortiz. Eighth Region except Talcahuano, Penco, Tome, Isla Mocha, and Santa Maria districts chief: Major General Eduardo Ibanez Tilleria; deputy chief: Brigadier General (Richard Quatz von Sawer). Talcahuano, Penco, Tome, Isla Mocha, and Santa Maria districts chief: Rear Admiral (Eduardo Albayay Fuentes); deputy chief: Captain Hector Higueras Ormazabal.

Television Official Details Free Campaign Time

PY2608205588 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] For 27 days, from the date the plebiscite is announced to 3 days before it is held, free television time over a national network will be made available for campaigning. The free time will be granted between 2245 and 2315 Monday through Friday, and between 1130 and 1200 on Saturdays and Sundays. This announcement was made today by the executive secretary of the National Television Council, Denis Ludwig, who said that the television time will be granted to each independent political party based on its membership numbers, regardless of the national or regional character of such parties.

Ludwig issued instructions for the broadcast of electoral propaganda in compliance with Law 18,700, which mandates that such propaganda must be free of charge.

[Begin Ludwig recording] The broadcast will be simultaneously made over a national network. The legislators' intention in making such propaganda free of charge is to guarantee the people's right to be informed on the choices submitted to this plebiscite and, therefore, the propaganda must be aired at hours of the day when the majority of voters are most likely to be home. I would say that the scheduling of electoral propaganda took the council the longest time to decide. The most important points of that law were taken into consideration, and one of them referred to scheduling. In the former law, the propaganda was scheduled for 2230. [end recording]

Ludwig then explained that Television Nacional will serve as the anchor for these broadcasts, since it already operates a nationwide network. Television Nacional will air the signal that will be received and aired by all other channels. The television time will be equally divided between the person nominated by the commanders in chief of the Armed Forces and the Carabineros director, or the National Security Council, and the independent political parties supporting the no vote in the plebiscite. Moreover, the candidate officially nominated will have to divide his time with the independent political parties supporting the yes vote. The opposition parties will have to divide through agreement the time apportioned to the entire opposition. Also, the opposition parties will have to register their status as independent political parties or groups with the National Television Council by means of a certificate expressly issued by the Electoral Service.

The propaganda recordings will have to be sent to the National Television Council 36 hours in advance. Furthermore, Ludwig pointed out that libelous propaganda will not be accepted.

[Begin Ludwig recording] There are a series of legal norms that are well known by the political parties and television production companies, particularly the Publicity Abuse Law, the State Security Law, and the permanent norms of the National Television Council, which must be respected. But there will not be any press censorship. [end recording]

Ludwig pointed out that expressions or images considered to be injurious or offensive to citizens, the president of the Republic, state branches, the Armed Forces, and religious authorities will be banned.

Finally, depending on the number of their membership, the political parties will be granted television propaganda space, which, for the opposition parties, will be 81 spaces divided into 3 blocks of 5 minutes each.

Peruvian Vice President Arrives for Visit

PY2708133388 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Yesterday afternoon Peruvian Vice President Luis Alberto Sanchez arrived in Chile. The writer and professor of history, philosophy, and politics will remain here until 30 August.

Today Sanchez will have lunch with Foreign Minister Ricardo Garcia at the golf club restaurant.

Luis Alberto Sanchez was born in Lima. He is a lawyer and doctor in philosophy and history. He has been a senator and deputy—in 1963, 1980, and 1985.

Radical Party Leader Hospitalized After Attack

PY2708182688 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT Aug 88

[Text] Radical Party leader Aldo Signorelli Guerra, 44 years old, is in serious condition at the main public hospital. However, it has been reported that his life is not in danger.

Aldo Signorelli was attacked and wounded with a knife before dawn today at the corner of Mattas and Portugal Avenues. According to the police report, Signorelli arrived at the hospital at 0030 [words indistinct] with an injury in the thorax region.

Asked about the incident, Signorelli reported that while he was walking along Mattas Avenue he was surrounded by three unidentified young men who attacked him with knives.

Details on this case have been submitted to the 9th Santiago court.

FPMR's Munoz Ugarte on Escape, Activities

FL2508202888 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Report by correspondent Sergio Carlos from Sweden]

[Text] Ricardo Munoz Ugarte was one of the combatants of the Manuel Rodriguez Front who along with Sergio Buschmann staged a spectacular escape from the Valparaiso jail. Today Ricardo came out in public here in this city of Sweden for the first time since his escape.

[Begin recording] [Carlos] Ricardo, why are you going public at this time, in Sweden?

[Munoz] Why this moment? Why this date? This is due to the work I have been carrying out as a member of the Patriotic Front in plans of action, first at home and later here abroad.

[Carlos] In other words, since you escaped from the Valparaiso jail you have all this time been active as a member and combatant of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front?

[Munoz] Yes, of course. Our actions as combatants and members of the front have not ceased at all. From the time we escaped, we immediately joined the struggle. We made up the Julio Guerra Olivares combat unit of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front. We continue to work in this unit. [end recording]

Colombia

Document on M-19 National Strategy Uncovered

PA2708231588 Bogota LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Aug 88 p 12

[Unattributed report: "The M-19 Wants To Seize Bogota"]

[Text] Some M-19 leaders met in Los Llanos Orientales in January. The police heard rumors about the meeting and tried to find the specific location where it was taking place. They were unable to do so but later they found a document outlining the meeting, which was organized to "plan the strategies to attain power." Perhaps all or part of what is proposed cannot be achieved, but it is interesting to see how the M-19 plans "to reach the government."

The self-styled M-19 has been taking the steps since 20 July that it believes it must take to achieve its planned "seizure of Bogota" by the "Bolivarian militias." The plan is part of a nationwide strategy for the seizure of the country's southwest, northwest, and central area, which would culminate in Bogota.

To carry out its plan, the M-19 created the "Bolivarian brigades" in poor districts, taking advantage of the unemployment and poverty of their residents, such as in Cali's Corinto neighborhood.

The plan will be carried out by a national directorate that has drawn up political, organizational, and military plans for specific periods until 1990. The strategy began with the kidnapping of politician Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, who was released 55 days later.

When the seizure of the country has been consolidated, a "national salvation junta" will begin to function as a new "instrument of government."

To facilitate its action, the M-19 will advocate a peace proposal. It has apparently already begun to do this through the "national summit."

The M-19 believes that it must take advantage of the "state of war in the country" to further facilitate its armed struggle.

In a document confiscated by the national police, the M-19 outlines a series of actions based on political, military, and urban sectors. The high command, however, will direct all the M-19 actions in the future, as was shown after Gomez' kidnapping.

These objectives will have a goal that must culminate in 1990 and will be carried out by a command, general staff, combat units, and national movements. The M-19 has established military regions, militias, urban movements, and propaganda brigades.

The document, which was drawn up in a meeting held in January in Los Llanos, stresses that extensive regions of Tolima, Huila, Caqueta, Valle del Cauca, and Cauca must be controlled, and the final objective is Bogota.

To increase their ranks, the "brigades" were divided into assigned subregions with specific work fronts, such as the "Bolivarian brigades" in Bogota. They are assigned to begin by infiltrating the labor unions, teachers' unions, student organizations, community boards, and social centers. The M-19's work in the trade unions will be based on plans that will permit the guerrillas to create a war economy, demanding "protection money" [vacunas] from companies.

Meanwhile, actions supposedly to help the community are being carried out in poor neighborhoods so that in the future the slogan will be "The community cannot exist without the guerrillas, and the guerrillas cannot exist without the community."

In the future, the militias will be consolidated in other cities such as Medellin, Cali, Bucaramanga, Barranquilla, and Neiva.

To infiltrate the population, the militias plan to recruit poor students.

The deterioration of the national Army's morale will be attained through ambushes and incursions, using secret information and what the document calls "rearguard rank and file."

There would be an M-19 campaign to incite the education sectors by promoting teachers' strikes in schools.

The Bolivarian militias plan to promote public agitation, strikes, labor movements, and student rallies.

This would serve to promote a policy in defense of life, which would lead to the occupation of embassies and international organizations because according to the document this would make its activities known abroad.

Alliances will be sought with other organizations such as the Army of National Lib- ation and the Communist Party of Colombia to promote a common leftist plan.

A tactic known as "profederation" will apparently seek to unite various labor unions. The document states that the M-19 will concentrate on [Bogota's] "Puente Aranda and southern section." "A workers popular district assembly" will be organized "by taking advantage of the factionalism and protests in the Bogota City Council."

"Social fronts of activity and struggle" will be promoted "in the neighborhoods or districts, company by company, or industrial zone by industrial zone."

The sabotage of enterprises providing public services, such as waterworks, electricity, telephones, and District Public Service Enterprises, will be undertaken with the cooperation of the unions.

All of the militants are already "required to make a special contribution, at least equal to the ordinary statutory quota." The police believe that the latter represents some kind of protection money.

Each cell has the immediate task of trying to obtain a contribution from "mass organizations or friends of the party." The document does not specify which party.

The agitation movements in the neighborhoods must be aimed at harassing and causing confrontations with the police in the schools.

The document states that a national strike must be organized by September or earlier, and for this purpose "each member of the militia must contribute tires, gasoline, gunpowder, jars, and acids."

The basis of this plan will be an "increasing political and social confrontation along with the organization of democratic struggle and government instruments."

The organization of "three basic meetings" will be promoted. One of them will be called "Colombians for Life." It also states that "the congress of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board" and a meeting of "Colombians in exile" must be convened.

The document with the plans to "reach power" was drawn up and confiscated in Villavicencio. It is believed that each guerrilla leader has a copy of the document, which has a definite "antioligarchic" overtone.

FARC To Release Soldiers Captured at Saisa

PA2908020588 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0120 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Senator Alvaro Leiva Duran has received a message from the FARC to the effect that that subversive group will turn over to the Verification and Follow-Up Commission the 22 soldiers who were captured during the attack on Saisa.

Ecuador

Guayaquil Mayor Vows To Oust 'Dictator' Borja

PA2608213588 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] In her well-known style, Guayaquil Mayor Elsa Bucaram has reiterated that she will overthrow President Rodrigo Borja within the confines of the law and the Constitution. She insisted that the Social Democratic government has unleashed a policy of persecution, as in the case of [Roldosist Party presidential candidate] attorney Abdala Bucaram.

[Begin Elsa Bucaram recording] I have said I am going to overthrow Dr Rodrigo Borja, in accordance with the Constitution and the law because he is a dictator, because I know that he respects nothing, and because he has unleashed a campaign of political persecution, such as the one unleashed against my brother, attorney Abdala Bucaram Ortiz. [end recording]

Paraguay

Education Group Leaders Released 26 Aug

PY2708143088 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 27 Aug 88 p 19

[Excerpts] Juan Gabriel Espinola and Miguel Angel Lopez, leaders of the Organization of Education Workers of Paraguay (OTEP) who have been detained at the former Security Guard barracks since 19 August, were released yesterday at about 1730. [passage omitted]

Following the arrest of Espinola and Lopez, OTEP lawyers filed a habeas corpus petition with the Supreme Court of Justice (SCJ). Acting on that petition, the SCJ ordered the police to bring Espinola and Lopez before the court and to give the reason for their arrest. The court order was not heeded, but a couple of days later the OTEP leaders were released. [passage omitted]

Peru

Economy Minister Gives Program to Villanueva

PY2708030888 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Economy and Finance Minister Cesar Robles Freyre has given the integral economic program [plan economico integral] to Prime Minister Arnaldo Villanueva del Campo.

This announcement was made by Senator Alfredo Santa Maria Calderon, who added that this program could be released at any time.

Submarine, Japanese Boat Collide; Three Dead

OW2708104288 Tokyo KYODO in English 1020 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Tokyo, Aug 27 KYODO—A World War II vintage Peruvian submarine sank after colliding with a Japanese fishing vessel off Peru Friday, killing three people aboard the submarine and leaving 28 others missing, the Japanese Foreign Ministry and Japanese fishery sources said.

There were no injuries among the 21-member crew of the Japanese vessel, the 412-ton No 8 Kyowa Maru, the ministry said. Sixteen of the Kyowa Maru's crew were Japanese and the rest Peruvians.

Twenty-two persons from the 1,870-ton "Pacocha" submarine with a 53-member crew were reported rescued, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said.

Ministry officials, citing a report from the Japanese Embassy in Lima, said the collision took place at around 6:40 p.m. Friday (8:40 a.m. Saturday Japan time) [2340 GMT 26 Aug] off Callao, just 20 minutes after the Kyowa Maru set sail from the port located near a naval base just north of Lima.

The Japanese Embassy in Lima said 28 crew members of the submarine were missing.

Authorities have launched a search and rescue operation in the area where the collision occurred.

The Pacocha was built in 1943 by the United States and sold to the Navy in 1974.

The Japanese vessel, from Ose, Mie Prefecture, suffered a crack on the bow as result of the impact. There were also reports of fuel leakage from the Kyowa Maru.

According to a cable received from Kyowa Maru, the submarine sank after the collision, officials of the Mikiura fishery cooperatives in Mie Prefecture said.

The Japanese fishing boat plucked three bodies from the sea, they said.

Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno sent a cable to the foreign minister, expressing condolences to the families of those who perished in the collision, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The Kyowa Maru left Japan on September 18 and has since used Callao as a supply port for its tuna operation in the Pacific, according to a fishery radio station in Mie Prefecture which maintains regular radio contacts with the ship.

The station last recived a cable from Kyowa Maru on Tuesday, indicating the ship was entering Callao on that day.

Reports from Peru said there were about 100 Japanese fishing boats operating in the area.

Police Helicopter Attacked by Drug Traffickers

PY2608160888 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Today's issue of the newspaper LA VOZ states that Congress will discuss the Supreme Court decision on Perciles Sanchez. [passage omitted]

Also the newspaper reports that on 21 August a police helicopter was attacked by a group of drug traffickers. The incident occurred while the police helicopter was evacuating personnel of the Nuevo Progreso police precinct, in San Martin Department, to the UMOPAR base in Tingo Maria.

The helicopter was shot at from the ground by a group of unidentified individuals who wounded an officer and a civil guard. The helicopter was called in to help the Nuevo Progreso district police precinct which was attacked with explosives and long-range weapons by a group of approximately 50 criminals who tried to overpower the police precinct for 3 hours. The decisive action of the helicopter and police personnel prevented the drug traffickers from taking over the precinct.

3 Policemen, Official, 4 Others Die in Attacks

PY2808014888 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2209 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Lima, 27 Aug (EFE)—At least 8 people died in several terrorist attacks in recent days in Peru, it was reported here today.

3 policemen died and 1 was wounded last night in an attack on a police station in the San Jose de los Molinos township, Ica Department, south of Lima.

Presumed Shining Path terrorists attacked the police station with gunfire and explosives, killing 2 noncommissioned officers and 1 guard, and wounding a sergeant.

Today the local station Radioprogramas del Peru reported that the police conducted raids in San Jose de los Molinos and the surrounding area to search for suspects in the attack.

Today the newspaper LA REPUBLICA carries a report by Jesuit Father Mateo Garr on the murder of a town official and 4 engineers in several townships of Junin Department, in the Peruvian central mountain range.

The report says that on 17 August, a Shining Path group murdered the governor of the San Juan de Jarpa Township. On that same day, another Shining Path group invaded the Yanacanca Township and killed 2 engineers who were supervising agricultural projects.

On 20 August another subversive group murdered 2 more engineers in the San Jose de Quero Township.

According to LA REPUBLICA, subversive groups also issued death threats against officials of the Cotahuasi Township, in the southern department of Arequipa.

No Peruvian official has confirmed these press reports.

Uruguay

Sanguinetti, De la Madrid To Meet in October

PY2708134888 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] It was reported that President Julio Maria Sanguinetti and Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid will meet next October in Uruguay before the Group of Eight presidential summit.

This was reported by the Uruguayan Ambassador to Mexico Maximo Gurmendez in a news conference after he laid a flower wreath on the monument to the hero children of Mexico on Mexican Independence Day.

Venezuela

DISIP Arrests Subversives, Finds Arsenal

PA2708142988 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 19 Aug 88 p 32

[Article by Jose Hurtado]

[Excerpts] DISIP [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services] officials seized an arsenal belonging to members of a subversive organization known as the Venceremos Group [Grupo Venceremos], which has been implicated in the attack on the Union Bank in Carrizales and other banks in Caracas and elsewhere.

Five [as published] people were arrested and an arsenal was seized in raids carried out in El Junquito, Cuaricuao, Los Flores de Catia, and Los Teques. The group is accused of inciting and directly participating in disturbances during demonstrations held in Caracas, Barquisimeto, and Merida. [passage omitted]

DISIP officials Oswaldo Granadillo and Henry Lopez Sisco identified the arrested as Jose Aner Montilla Cabeza, Omar Enrique Cote Garcia, and Marlene Idsmary Marin Marcano.

The DISIP is searching for another member of the Venceremos Group, Carlos Bernardo Lopez Guevara, who is accused of participating in a bank robbery in Carrizales, Miranda State. Lopez Guevara rented the house where the arsenal was found. [passage omitted]

It was reported that Raul Sanoja Vivas also participated in the robbery of the Carrizales bank on 5 August. He was killed when he confronted Panamerican service guards who happened to be passing by as the attackers fled from the bank.

The DISIP also reported that a raid on a house located at the km 143 marker on the highway leading to El Junquito and rented by Carlos Bernardo Lopez Guevara, who is considered the gang's leader, yielded one Madsen machinegun, two 12-gage shotguns (one with the brand name Riot produced by the Serenosca Guard Co.), two shotgun rifle butts, one Python .357 magnum revolver, one 7.65-mm Walther pistol, four grenades, one tear gas canister, four FAL magazines, one bulletproof vest belonging to the metropolitan police special brigade, two Uzi submachinegun magazines, one Thompson machinegun magazine, one Ingram 380 machinegun magazine, one military coat, one ammunition belt, explosive devices, a large quantity of jewelry presumably stolen from jewelry stores, one military uniform, one private guard uniform, a large quantity of ammunition, military insignias, and one gold-weighing scale. [passage omitted]